

Dr Owen not to seek reselection by Labour

The rift in the Labour Party deepened last night when Dr David Owen, one of the so-called "gang of four" who have formed the Council for Social Democracy, told his constituency party that he would not stand as the official party candidate in the next election. But he did not indicate whether he would fight the seat as a social democratic candidate.

Statement cites party swing to left

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Dr David Owen last night took another step towards leaving the Labour Party when he announced that he would not stand as the official party candidate at the next election in his Plymouth, Devonport, constituency. The former Foreign Secretary left it unclear whether he would contest the seat as a social democratic candidate.

In a statement prepared for his local management committee, Dr Owen said that he was remaining a member of the Labour Party until he had decided whether or not to join a new party. He did not intend to be rushed into any decision, but in an indication that he might remain in the Commons even after joining a new party, he said that he would continue to represent the seat throughout the life of this Parliament.

From what is known of Dr Owen's thinking and that of the other members of Labour's "gang of four" who last Sunday formed the Council for Social Democracy, a decision whether to turn it into a new party will be taken in the summer.

Dr Owen, who retained his seat in a close fight at the 1979 general election, said it was ironic that the Boundary Commission should now be proposing changes that would make Devonport a safer Labour seat. He made it clear that nothing in the Shadow Cabinet's determination to reverse the decision of the special party conference on electing the leader, had altered his view of the party's swing to the left. Pain and sadness: Dr Owen's move follows the resignation earlier this week from the Shadow Cabinet of Mr William Rodgers, and the announcement last year by Mrs Shirley Williams that she did not wish to be considered as future Labour candidate for her former constituency (the Press Association reports).

In an emotionally worded speech, he made clear his pain and sadness at his decision. He told the management committee: "This is a deeply painful moment. Many of us have worked closely together over the years in a spirit of friendship and good comradeship."

Mr Trudeau was answering opposition questions in a sometimes stormy exchange triggered by the report that the select committee had strong reservations over the package. He insisted that the position taken by the select committee is not that of the British Government and Parliament and reiterated earlier statements that he had Mrs Thatcher's promise to put on a three-line ship so as to get the measure through the British House. The Prime Minister returned to the same theme at a press conference today. Asked whether Canada might unilaterally declare independence if Westminster does not adopt the federal plan, he said: "That won't happen, because the British Parliament will act. I have the word of the Prime Minister."

Ottawa warned, page 4

Premier resigns in Norway

Oslo, Jan 30.—Mr Odvar Nordli, the Norwegian Prime Minister, resigned today after five years in office because of health reasons. The ruling Social Democratic party is to meet on Tuesday to discuss the successor.—Agence France Presse.

S Africans attack targets in Maputo

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 30

A commando raid by South African forces against targets in a suburb of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, has added a dangerous dimension to the tensions which already exist between South Africa and its black neighbours.

Today's raid was the first such attack by South Africa against Mozambique since the left-wing Frelimo Government came to power in 1975. The attack, which took place around 2 am, was directed at three houses occupied by members of the African National Congress (ANC), a militant black nationalist organisation which is banned in South Africa. Its leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, is serving a life sentence on Robben Island.

Thirteen people were killed in the raid; eleven were occupants of the houses, one was a white member of the commando force and one was a Portuguese technician who was killed while travelling to the port suburb of Matola, where he worked.

According to General Constant Viljoen, chief of the South African Defence Force, three houses contained the planning and control headquarters for the nationalist organisation in Maputo. He said the raid included "senior commando and terrorist" belonging to the ANC.

However, it was claimed in Maputo that the houses were occupied by South African refugees. Officials said that the Government's policy was to provide refuge for members of the ANC, but not to allow them to use Mozambique's territory for training purposes or as a springboard for guerrilla activities against South Africa.

General Viljoen said the raid was a warning to South Africa's neighbours to fear for their own safety if they protected anti-South African guerrillas. According to Mozambique, the South African force travelled to its target by land. The distance from the South African border to Maputo is only 50 miles. Matola, where the houses were situated, is about nine miles southwest of the capital.

According to a western diplomat, who was taken to witness the effects of the raid, the commandos had used rockets, mortars and mines.

The South African attack has caused considerable surprise in diplomatic circles here and in Mozambique. "A foul act", Lieutenant-General Armando Guebuza, the Mozambique Deputy Prime Minister, called the raid "a foul and criminal act". He said the attack was a challenge to Mozambique's right to shelter South African citizens "being persecuted by the apartheid regime". (Reuters reports from Maputo).

Chairman's disappointment: Mr Robert Bishop, chairman of the management committee, said he hoped Dr Owen would change his mind. (John Willmott writes from Plymouth).

"We are very disappointed. By far the loudest cry was for David Owen to reconsider his position and to stay within the party and fight for the change in which he believes and has fought so strongly for over a number of years."

Dissidents challenged, page 2



Ticker-tape parade: Confetti and ticker-tape rain down on the convoy of 22 former embassy hostages being given a traditional New York welcome yesterday.

More than 600 miles of ticker-tape was given to the city by two firms who make it. At City Hall, the 22 heroes were greeted by Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor, and given ceremonial keys to the city.

Mr Barry Rosen, one of the New Yorkers among the hostages, called the crowd's enthusiasm "incomprehensible, unbelievable".

15,000 laid off after Ford drivers strike

By Edward Townsend

A strike by 440 Ford lorry drivers who are complaining about a curtailment of foreign trips and the loss, among other things, of the chance to buy duty-free goods, yesterday caused the lay-off of about 15,000 workers in the company's southern and Midlands plants.

Production of Corinas, Fiestas and Transit vans was brought to a halt and the company gave warning that more workers could be laid next week if the strike continued.

The only big plant not yet affected is the one at Halewood, Merseyside. Operations at the Ford tractor factory at Basildon, Essex, are to be reviewed on Monday.

The strikers, who are due to meet national union officials on Monday, work on the company's Dagenham site in Essex and are mainly engaged in the internal movement of parts and components. The dispute has arisen because of a reduction in the number of trips being made by the drivers between Dagenham and the Ford plant at Genk, Belgium.

Ford said yesterday that the drivers had become used to making about five journeys to the Continent each week. The cut in foreign visits became a "sensitive issue" when the company employed an outside contractor last week to deliver an emergency consignment of parts to Genk.

They said that the drivers' earnings had not been affected substantially by the reduction, nor had there been a cut in overtime. Short-time working or redundancies were not envisaged among the drivers.

But they added, the drivers now were not able to claim certain allowances and could not buy duty-free goods with the same regularity as in the past.

Mr Ronald Todd, national officer for the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Ford unions' chief negotiator, is to address the strikers on Monday and later meet management officials.

Lay-offs have so far affected 9,000 employees at Dagenham, about 3,000 at the Southampton plant, and a total of a further 3,000 at the Langley, Berkshire, Woolwich, south London, Aveley, Essex, and Leamington, Warwickshire, factories.

BL reinstates two men after 'mob' inquiry

From Clifford Webb
Birmingham

BL yesterday accepted the findings of a joint union-management inquiry into a disturbance at its Longbridge car plant on November 21 and reinstated two of the eight workers dismissed for allegedly leading a mob.

The inquiry followed a six-day strike by 1,500 workers which cost the company £18m in lost production of Metros. The inquiry, under an independent chairman from the Government's Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, was unanimous in finding reasonable doubt in the evidence against Mr Maurice Jones, aged 36. He is reinstated immediately.

They were divided about the case of Mr Keith Caesar, aged 28, but the management, under pressure from union leaders, yesterday agreed to give him the benefit of the doubt. He will lose 10 days pay before returning to work.

But throughout a six-hour meeting at BL's management training centre near Warwick, Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of Austin Morris and Rover

Tentative accord on free Saturdays reported by Solidarity

Warsaw, Jan 30.—Government officials and leaders of Solidarity, the independent trade union movement, were reported today to have reached a tentative accord on the free Saturday issue in talks aimed at ending Poland's sharpening labour conflict.

During a recess in the negotiations, a representative of Rural Solidarity, the still unregistered farmers' union, who was permitted to talk to delegates, said a "sort of agreement" on shortening working time was achieved.

He quoted negotiators, who included eight union officials and five peasant strike-leaders, as saying that one point of the agenda—the problem of censorship and union access to the mass media—was adjourned for subsequent discussion.

Another controversial topic, the registration of Rural Solidarity, was apparently to be dealt with upon the resumption of the talks at the Council of Ministers' meeting late tonight. No reporters were permitted inside the building.

According to Polish television, which is to be taken to the conference hall before the start of the meeting, Mr Lech Walesa, the head of Solidarity's negotiating team, said he wanted the three central points treated as "a package".

He told the television reporter: "We know that when decisions are taken on these matters, it will solve the problem (as a whole) and we will be able to work quietly and honestly... We don't want further escalation of tension," he said, adding that the talks would last "until they are successful".

Polish television ran a commentary condemning the strikes in the south-west of the country and referred to Solidarity's call for the strikes to end. "We must stop creating social tension," this point of view is shared by

the Solidarity leadership", it said.

"For the working class the word Solidarity has a special emotional sense but the working class will cut itself off from all those who tried to make from the word an instrument of political battle. Anti-socialist forces are pushing some local Solidarity branches into the blind road of negation", the commentary added.

A Solidarity official in Jelenia Gora said a sit-in strike at all main industrial plants began as planned today at 8 am. Public transport also stopped and only essential services were operating.

The Government has undertaken to send a negotiating team to the provinces on Monday. But the union said the strike would continue until an agreement had been signed on a list of demands which include the dismissal of the Union Affairs Minister and some 11 local officials.

Meanwhile, Polish journalists warned both sides against "all attempts to apply any violent solutions" in ending the labour conflicts. They said permanent negotiations were "the only way out of the crisis threatening to turn into a catastrophe".

A letter issued by the Polish Journalists' Guild and carried by the official news agency PAP, appeared to express most concern over the danger of possible violence. It urged "moderation and responsibility".

The state prosecutor's office today issued a statement reinforcing last night's warning by the Government that anarchy was imminent.

It reminded Poles that such activities as slandering state officials and political organisations, occupying public buildings, denying workers access to factories and issuing uncensored publications carried jail sentences of between one and 15 years.—AP, UPI and Reuters.

Pravda attack, page 4

Welsh river polluted by nitric acid

From Our Correspondent
Brecon

The Welsh Water Authority has issued a warning to the public after the pollution of a river in Gwent by 2,000 gallons of concentrated nitric acid.

A spokesman at the authority's Brecon headquarters said that members of the public were being told not to enter the Afon Llywd between Panteg and Caerleon under any circumstances.

Police with loud hollers were touring areas along the river telling people to stay clear of the water and farmers and pet owners were told to keep their animals away from the water. The spokesman said: "This is a major pollution incident. Already there are signs of substantial fish fatalities and there has been damage to other forms of life in the river. We believe we know the source of the acid but because of the possibility of legal action we are not identifying it at present."

It said that the Afon Llywd had been a fishable river which had recently been stocked as a trout fishery.

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Indecency Bill given its second reading

The Indecent Displays Bill, a private member's Bill presented by Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove, was given an unopposed second reading in the House of Commons. The legislation aimed at securing greater control over the display of offensive material, was promised the Government's assistance in its progress through Parliament.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, said that the Government supported the broad objectives of the Bill.

Parliamentary report, page 10

Private cash talks on BR electrification

A report recommends spending £1,000m on electrifying most main railway lines over the next 20 years. British Rail is holding talks with private companies and bankers with a view to private sector financing of much of the equipment for lease to the railways. The scheme would double the amount of electrified track.

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Monopolies writ

Members of the National Union of Journalists at The Sunday Times are to start legal proceedings to force Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, to refer the proposed purchase of Times Newspapers Ltd by Mr Rupert Murdoch to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Page 2

Zimbabwe attack on British aid policy

Britain's aid policy was criticised by Zimbabwe's Minister, Senator Enos Nkala, when he presented a Enjo-Budget in the House of Assembly. Zimbabwe was "at war with Britain over aid", he said. He would reject any aid package if London insisted on conditions.

Page 4

TV script dispute: £54,000 settlement in case involving eight writers and a book by Mr Desmond Wilcox.

Madrid: Doubts arose last night over the outgoing Prime Minister's choice of his deputy as successor.

Football mountains: The four British teams have drawn difficult opponents in the quarter-finals of the three European competitions.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 23, 24; Home and garden, 23; Postal shopping, 23; Holidays and hotels in Great Britain and Ireland, 11.

Deader drinks hint

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, hinted that taxes on alcohol and cigarettes would be raised in the March Budget. "Hardly annuals, tobacco and alcohol, have to be adjusted in the light of inflation. There is nothing unusual about that," he said.

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Home News 2, 3; Crossword 24; European News 4; Features 12; Overseas News 4; Gardening 10; Appointments 9; Letters 13; Bridge 17-21; Ordinary 14; Business 10; Parliament 10; Chess 2; Court 14; Records 6.

Religion 14; Sale Room 14; TV & Radio 15, 16; Sat Review 5-11; Theatres, etc 8, 9; Science 10; Travel 14; 25 Years Ago 14; Services 22; Shopping 22; Weather 14; Snow reports 15; Wills 14.

HOME NEWS

How some beans grew into a dispute

£54,000 paid by BBC to settle script dispute

A five-year dispute between the BBC and eight writers who aimed that chapters in the *East of Eden* book *The* *Widow* were based on their television scripts has been settled with the payment to the writers of a total of £54,000 by the BBC.

The publication of the book *The Widows* by BBC Publications was timed to accompany the television series which was first broadcast in 1975 and repeated the following year. Both the Society of Authors and the Writers Guild of Great Britain took issue on behalf of the writers of the scripts and a long period of litigation followed after the BBC failed to settle the matter.

Last March, three years after the issue of a writ by the Society and the Guild claiming infringement of copyright, the BBC and Mr Wilcox, who had earlier filed a defence denying the claims, conceded that copyright had been infringed.

Each of the writers, one of whom, Mr Ian Thorne, has since died, had received £2,334 in respect of each script and another sum of £3,000 each were paid to two of them, Mr Ian Thorne, who wrote the *Widow* script, and Miss Rosemary Anne Sisson (Mary Ingleby) in respect of claims of infringement of copyright.

Mr Thorne wrote the *Widow* script, the others were Mr and Mrs Lasky (Christopher Columbus and H. M. Stanley); Robert Walmsley (Burke and Willis); David Jeddah Smith; David Lowthorpe (C. M. Dougherty) and Desmond Innes (Captain Jack).

The amounts awarded were described in a joint statement by the Society and the Guild yesterday as "substantially in excess of the royalties which the writers would have received if the BBC had entered into proper publishing contracts permitting the use of television scripts in the compilation of the book".

Mr Wilcox said in a statement last night that he was not to blame for the infringement and was not liable to pay the damages. "The BBC are paying the damages and the costs and all the legal bills because it has been their action brought out by their mistake," he said. "It was important, he said, as he made a living as a writer, to have a professional reputation cleared."

He said he had not "lifted" the writers' work but was commissioned to write the book with research material in television scripts. The BBC had failed to acquire the necessary copyright, something he had acknowledged in a statement made last August.

New High Court judge may be sued for leaving arbitration

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

A recently appointed High Court judge may be sued for breach of contract for failing to complete hearing an arbitration.

The Cooperative Wholesale Society is considering taking legal action against Mr Justice Falconer after his decision that his promotion to the High Court bench meant that he could no longer be the arbitrator in a claim brought by the society against an engineering firm at Stockport, Greater Manchester.

When it was announced earlier this month that he was to become a judge, Mr Douglas Falconer, QC, an expert in patents and trade-marks, had spent nearly 10 weeks in hearing evidence on a dispute about the working of a computer-operated automatic grocery

warehouse in Birtley, near Newcastle upon Tyne, for which the engineering contractors were Simon-Carves.

The legal costs of preparing for the arbitration, and of the hearing itself, were estimated as being "well into six figures". All that could be lost. A new arbitrator would have to start from scratch. The claim itself is understood to involve millions of pounds.

It is not clear why Mr Justice Falconer felt he had to withdraw. There are precedents for allowing a senior QC to finish off a complex case before assuming his duties as a judge.

Apparently Mr Justice Falconer reached his decision after consultation with the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone. The Lord Chancellor's Department would not comment on the reason for the judge having to abandon

the arbitration, and Mr Justice Falconer, too, declined to comment.

Quite apart from the possibility of a claim, the circumstances of the judge's withdrawal are likely to diminish the reputation of arbitration as a means of settling disputes.

Frequently, senior QCs who are employed as arbitrators are candidates for promotion to the High Court. Potential parties to arbitration will think twice before taking the risk that elevation of the arbitrator to the bench might mean months of work, and many thousands of pounds, wasted.

This particular dispute between the Cooperative Wholesale Society and Simon-Carves has been dogged with bad luck. Before Mr Falconer's appointment, a previous arbitrator had died after hearing some of the preliminary issues raised by the claim.

Police to blame for almost total mistrust of the law by blacks, inquiry says

By Lucy Hodges

An independent inquiry into the police in Lambeth, south London, reported yesterday that police relations with the community were extremely grave.

The investigation was chaired by a QC and crossed party political lines. Its report is mostly made up of testimony submitted to a working party by 275 groups and individuals in the area. Mr Edward Knight, leader of Lambeth council, said it painted a picture of almost total mistrust of the police by the black community.

"If we are to avoid a racial explosion in London like the one last year in Bristol, everyone concerned should take urgent action after reading this report," he said. "And that means, certainly includes the police."

The working party, chaired by Mr David Turner-Samuels, QC, was set up by Lambeth council in 1979. It asked the police to cooperate, but Mr Leonard Adams, the local commander, who has now left Lambeth, refused.

The working party says it could therefore make no findings of fact about the truth or otherwise of incidents referred to it. It did, however, make a long list of recommendations, including a proposal that the Special Patrol Group should cease to be used in Lambeth.

It said that community-police relations were so grave because of the nature of the police force and its methods. "At the moment the police are not controlled by the community or

seen as part of it, and therefore ideas like 'beat police' and local 'cop shops' are superficial technical changes as capable of abuse as any other."

It could not recommend watchdog committees or liaison committees as methods of democratic control because they were not effective and had not changed police attitudes. But limited improvement could come from a greater respect for civil liberties.

It recommended no increase in police powers and said that the judges' Rules should be given the force of law. The Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure made a similar recommendation recently. Any one who was arrested should be told of his right to silence and his right to see a solicitor.

When people were stopped and searched by the police, it should always be done courteously, with minimum interference and proper explanation, the report said.

Mr Knight said yesterday that early legislation should be introduced to make the police accountable. The unique position of the Metropolitan Police, who were answerable only to the Home Secretary, was intolerable. They should be under the control of the GLC.

The Metropolitan Police declined to comment yesterday on the report. They referred to Mr Adams' reasons for refusing to cooperate with the inquiry. In a letter to the working party he said he did not think it would produce an impartial report and that his views on police-community relations were well known.

Government offer on citizenship

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office is prepared to discuss some form of appeal against the refusal of naturalisation and registration under the Government's new British Nationality Bill.

Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, in a reply yesterday to the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Hume, said there were serious difficulties about introducing an appeal system. Cardinal Hume had written to Mr Whitelaw on behalf of the archbishops of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales criticising the Bill.

Mr Whitelaw accepted that people had strong views that there ought to be a right of appeal. But if such a right meant that the criteria for naturalisation were narrowed to such matters as lack of a criminal record and financial solvency, "it seems inevitable that people would get naturalized whom the public would consider unsuitable."

Cardinal Hume had listed points where a statement by the Home Secretary would be required about the revision of the nationality law conflicted with the new Bill.

Mr Whitelaw said that the Bill did not "as the bishops apparently suggest, give rise to any potentially racist conception of national identity, nor is there any racial discrimination in the Bill itself. The fact is that the Bill gives everyone an equal opportunity to acquire our citizenship, regardless of racial origin."

After a meeting which went on for more than six hours the ruling Centre Democratic Union (CDU) last night, announced by Señor Suárez, announced just before dawn that its national executives had nominated Señor Calvo Sotelo.

A tense and somewhat confused atmosphere continues to prevail in the CDU. Those in the party who became Suárez opponents were today showing reservations about the party choice.

The critics, chiefly Christian Democrats and the liberals on the right of the party, left the meeting of the executive in the

WEST EUROPE

Bonn hails Reagan consultation pledge

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Jan 30

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today welcomed Mr Alexander Haig's statement on United States foreign policy and, in particular, his repeated assurances that President Reagan will consult his European allies more.

"That is very important. It means that the Government in Washington is opening itself to influence from its European allies and also to our influence," he said.

The Chancellor, speaking in the Bundestag, also attached great importance to Mr Haig's statement that the United States would keep up the "Salt process" (efforts to limit strategic arms), his comments on arms control in Europe and negotiations to reduce the danger of a nuclear war.

He was clearly underlining their partly for the benefit of his restless left-wing MPs, who have been sniping at his and NATO's defence and arms control policies.

Herr Schmidt made it clear that he would keep the United States to its commitment—laid down in last December's Nato decision on modernizing medium-range nuclear missiles—to negotiate with the Soviet Union on cutting down the numbers of such missiles.

"This obligation... must be maintained, German influence and European influence in this must be maintained," he said.

Earlier in comments directed at his left-wing critics he emphasized that "whoever questions the dual decision or one part of it in the present world situation, questions the alliance itself."

The Chancellor welcomed the absence of any declaration by Mr Haig that the United States intended to aim at military superiority over the Soviet Union.

He said he would have no reservations about the Americans aiming to be "second to none" but he would have considerable misgivings about them aiming to be "superior to everyone else."

In forthcoming talks in Washington West German ministers intend to insist on maintaining a balance of power between East and West. They will also emphasize the importance of cooperation with East European countries, among other things, on arms control.

Worked participation: A long and difficult dispute between West Germany's two coalition parties was ended today after the Cabinet approved a compromise Bill on *Montanmitbestimmung*, worker participation on the supervisory boards of the coal and steel industry.

The dispute between Social Democrats and the Free Democrats arose after the huge Mannesmann concern announced a reorganization which would have taken part of its holdings out of the category of coal and steel industries in which—unlike the rest of West German industries—workers and employers have an equal share of the seats on the supervisory boards.

Alarmed at the prospect of worker participation being watered down, the unions and Social Democrats demanded action. The result, after months of struggle was a compromise. In future, coal and steel firms which undergo such reorganization will have to maintain worker-employer parity for six years. At the same time the unions' power to appoint their representatives to such boards was curtailed.

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 30
Great cooks are born and not made. Obvious proof that the savoir faire of haute cuisine is handed on in the genes appears next week in the tenth edition of the *Gault and Millau* reference work on French eating, the *Gault and Millau* Guide.

It names as cook of the year—in a year when they say French cooking is set to reconquer the world—a 37-year-old strapping, called Georges Blanc, who qualifies for four chefs hats, a score of 19 out of 20 and the commendation that his cooking represents "a perfect love marriage between regional tradition and modern invention."

Georges Blanc's seaside inn at Four in the Ain was first discovered in 1933, when M. Gault and M. Millau were scarcely a twinkle in their respective fathers' eyes, by that pioneer of gastronomic literature, Maurice Curnusky. The high priest at the kitchen altar in those days was Georges' grandmother and Curnusky was in no doubt that she was "the best cook in the world."

Two days after Georges Blanc's new guide says "it is a festival, a festival of friendship, a festival of subtle and precise flavours which will put your palate into a state of excitement."

Unveiling the guide yesterday in a modest M. Christian Millau said that French cuisine had regained its place of prime importance in the world. Its annual turnover was higher than the 300,000 francs (£27,000) of the motor industry, making it the largest industry in the country. In his view it was time that the Académie Française thought of admitting its first great chef as one of the immortals.

Chief among those potential immortals is Paul Bocuse, who this year is welcomed back in the guide rather as a prodigal son. M. Bocuse, whose restaurant at Collonges au Mont d'Or outside Lyons has been called the high temple of the nouvelle cuisine (which was first identified by Gault and Millau), has been somewhat out of favour with his discoverers recently.

"Bocuse", this year's guide says, "has travelled too far down the paths of glory ever to turn back. He is the most famous chef in the world and this title makes him a man on his own... When you have become a sort of ambassador of French cuisine, you cannot accomplish your mission by staying at home in your slipper."

The guide this year contains 4,500 hotels and restaurants—500 more than last year—although 338 establishments have lost their place in the guide. For the first time this year it also includes a recommendation on restaurants which offer good quality at reasonable prices.

But prices generally are the big complaint in the guide. They have risen by anything up to 500 per cent since 1972. The guide itself costs 50 francs, and for the money a gourmet can stay at home with his slippers on and browse through the most mouth-watering menus available in France.



Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, making a forceful point in the Bundestag.

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Jan 30
King Juan Carlos began at the royal palace this afternoon the process of consulting leaders of the Spanish political parties to find a new Prime Minister after the sudden departure of Señor Adolfo Suárez.

The first caller was Señor Suárez, who proposed Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the deputy Prime Minister responsible for economic affairs, chosen by his party earlier today, as his candidate for the post.

He was followed by Señor Felipe González, leader of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the largest opposition group in Parliament.

This is the first time there has been a change of Prime Ministers under Spain's democratic constitution of 1978 and everything is being done, even the denial of wish, to give the country the impression of the utmost constitutional normality.

After a meeting which went on for more than six hours the ruling Centre Democratic Union (CDU) last night, announced by Señor Suárez, announced just before dawn that its national executives had nominated Señor Calvo Sotelo.

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From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 30
Basque separatists kept up their campaign of violence against the construction of a nuclear power plant near Bilbao by kidnapping an engineer employed by the company which is building the nuclear station. They also set off a bomb which killed a man at an electric transformer site.

The explosion, at Tudela, near Pamplona, took place at about midnight, causing a temporary blackout in the area. The body of an unidentified man, suspected of being one of the bombers from the outlawed secessionist organization ETA, was found at the blast site.

The engineer, Señor José María Ryan, employed by the Iberduero Electric Company, was on his way last night from Lemona, where the nuclear plant is being built, to his home near Bilbao when the Basque extremists took him prisoner.

Soon afterwards, an anonymous telephone caller told a reporter at a Bilbao newspaper that Señor Ryan was being held by the ETA. He was the twenty-ninth person to be kidnapped by the ETA since 1970.

Meanwhile, doubts persist about whether another kidnapped man is in the hands of the ETA or of common criminals. He is Señor Luis Suárez, a wealthy industrialist who was held out of his office at one of his factories in Alcala, near Valencia, 17 days ago by a group of hooded gunmen.

Señor Suárez's family in Valencia said through a spokesman that they think an anonymous telephone call to a newspaper in the Basque country yesterday, claiming that he is in the hands of the ETA, was a hoax.

The spokesman recalled that the Basque secessionist organization denied soon after the kidnapping that it was responsible. Police, however, did not rule out the possibility that the kidnapping of Señor Suárez, a man who paid the highest personal income tax in the country last year.

From Our Correspondent
The Hague, Jan 30
Apparently shaken by the severity of Peking's reaction to the proposed sale of two submarines to Taiwan, the Dutch Government assured Parliament last night that it will permit no further arms sales to Taiwan.

Mr Andries van Agt, the Prime Minister, said, however, that the Government would not withdraw the export licence already promised to the Rijn-Schelde-Vereeniging in Rotterdam which is negotiating with Taipei over the submarine order.

It was the second full-fledged debate held in the Lower House on the submarine issue. Last month the Government decision to allow the sale was approved

In brief

300 youths riot in West Berlin

Berlin, Jan 30.—Three hundred youths caused damage, estimated at £200,000 here during seven hours of rioting. The demonstrators, who were protesting about the sentencing of a student for taking part in another riot last month, overturned vehicles, started three fires, erected barricades, and broke windows in 59 banks and other buildings, police reported. Eight demonstrators were detained.

Anne Frank diary

Amsterdam, Jan 30.—The diary of Anne Frank, describing the experiences of a Jewish girl who hid from the Nazis during the Second World War, will be published in full at the end of next year. Her father, Otto, had edited the present published version to cut out passages he considered too "personal" on Anne's relations with her mother, her friends and her own intimate thoughts. Mr Frank died last August.

Journalists released

Rome, Jan 30.—Two Italian journalists, who have been charged with abetting the Red Brigades terrorist organization, have been released from jail pending further investigation. The journalists, who work for the weekly *L'Espresso* magazine, were arrested on New Year's Eve.

Papal post filled

Rome, Jan 30.—The Pope has appointed Cardinal Giuseppe Caprio to be head of the Holy See's prefecture for economic affairs. The post has been vacant since the death on Boxing Day of Cardinal Egidio Vagnozzi.

Palais de Justice bomb

Paris, Jan 30.—A time bomb went off just before midnight last night in the main hall of the Palais de Justice, causing considerable damage but injuring no one. It is believed to be the work of Corsican nationalists.

Thatcher trip

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will visit The Netherlands next Friday, at the invitation of Queen Beatrix. Downing Street spokesman said. She will have talks with Mr van Agt, the Dutch Prime Minister, in The Hague.

Caravan family found dead in ski resort

Innsbruck, Jan 30.—A Royal Air Force officer, his wife and their two children died of carbon monoxide poisoning in their iced-up holiday caravan at the ski resort of Waidring near here four days ago, Austrian police said today.

They identified the dead as Adrian John Ray, aged 32, his wife Brenda, aged 30, and their children John, aged five, and Mark, aged three, from Cheddar, Somerset, Cheshire.—Reuter.

Dutch arms sale assurance

From Our Correspondent
The Hague, Jan 30
Apparently shaken by the severity of Peking's reaction to the proposed sale of two submarines to Taiwan, the Dutch Government assured Parliament last night that it will permit no further arms sales to Taiwan.

Mr Andries van Agt, the Prime Minister, said, however, that the Government would not withdraw the export licence already promised to the Rijn-Schelde-Vereeniging in Rotterdam which is negotiating with Taipei over the submarine order.

It was the second full-fledged debate held in the Lower House on the submarine issue. Last month the Government decision to allow the sale was approved

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 30
Great cooks are born and not made. Obvious proof that the savoir faire of haute cuisine is handed on in the genes appears next week in the tenth edition of the *Gault and Millau* reference work on French eating, the *Gault and Millau* Guide.

It names as cook of the year—in a year when they say French cooking is set to reconquer the world—a 37-year-old strapping, called Georges Blanc, who qualifies for four chefs hats, a score of 19 out of 20 and the commendation that his cooking represents "a perfect love marriage between regional tradition and modern invention."

Georges Blanc's seaside inn at Four in the Ain was first discovered in 1933, when M. Gault and M. Millau were scarcely a twinkle in their respective fathers' eyes, by that pioneer of gastronomic literature, Maurice Curnusky. The high priest at the kitchen altar in those days was Georges' grandmother and Curnusky was in no doubt that she was "the best cook in the world."

Two days after Georges Blanc's new guide says "it is a festival, a festival of friendship, a festival of subtle and precise flavours which will put your palate into a state of excitement."

Unveiling the guide yesterday in a modest M. Christian Millau said that French cuisine had regained its place of prime importance in the world. Its annual turnover was higher than the 300,000 francs (£27,000) of the motor industry, making it the largest industry in the country. In his view it was time that the Académie Française thought of admitting its first great chef as one of the immortals.

Chief among those potential immortals is Paul Bocuse, who this year is welcomed back in the guide rather as a prodigal son. M. Bocuse, whose restaurant at Collonges au Mont d'Or outside Lyons has been called the high temple of the nouvelle cuisine (which was first identified by Gault and Millau), has been somewhat out of favour with his discoverers recently.

"Bocuse", this year's guide says, "has travelled too far down the paths of glory ever to turn back. He is the most famous chef in the world and this title makes him a man on his own... When you have become a sort of ambassador of French cuisine, you cannot accomplish your mission by staying at home in your slipper."

The guide this year contains 4,500 hotels and restaurants—500 more than last year—although 338 establishments have lost their place in the guide. For the first time this year it also includes a recommendation on restaurants which offer good quality at reasonable prices.

But prices generally are the big complaint in the guide. They have risen by anything up to 500 per cent since 1972. The guide itself costs 50 francs, and for the money a gourmet can stay at home with his slippers on and browse through the most mouth-watering menus available in France.

Life and leisure: A growing pastime

Allotment fever cools, but more land still needed

By Cyril Bainbridge

There are signs that the great allotment boom, which reached a peak in 1977 when the price of a standard-sized plot was £200, has cooled. Waiting lists are shorter and the turnover rate in ownership has quickened. Gardening, the joy of working in harmony with nature, remains for thousands, nevertheless, the finest leisure pursuit.

The allotment scene has changed in the last few years. Much of the cloth-cap image has gone, and alongside the potatoes and turnips are sprouting more exotic varieties of vegetable. The average age of allotment holders is lower, too, at 45.

There have even been attempts to change the name of allotment holders to leisure gardeners, although anyone who has tried to get a plot has found that the average age of allotment holders is lower, too, at 45.

Allotments are run by local authorities each in its own way. That, according to Mr John Farmer, secretary of the National Society of Leisure Gardeners, is one of the difficulties.

"To get a unified movement is very difficult," he said. "If there was a national policy, backed by some government grant aid, we could really get a move on in the Dig for Victory era, get a national effort going."

Centralization makes statistics difficult, but it is certain that there is not enough land available for all those who seek a garden plot as a peaceful refuge on which they can turn a spade to offset inflation. "We are most concerned with the present rate of unemployment and we are about to approach the Department of the Environment asking for more land to be provided," Mr Farmer said. "There are waiting lists everywhere and we calculate that in some areas some people could wait 20 years unless more land is made available."

Demand, however, is showing signs of slackening. At Bristol, for instance, the waiting list, and £15 this week. During the three-week inquiry, workers have said that they expected a compromise outcome similar to that reached yesterday and thought that it would be acceptable to the majority.

Mr Jones said: "I can hardly believe it is true. I have been sitting here for six weeks with no money and no prospects. Now I can go out and start planning my life again for myself and my wife. I shall be happy to go back to Longbridge."

Mr Roy Orchard, aged 54, a transport union shop steward whose dismissal stands, said: "It is not over yet. The unions will have to go back to the men on the shop floor."

which reached 3,000 in 1977, is down to about 1,000. The city has about 4,500 plots to let; changes in lettings have risen from about 500 a year to 900. The amount of land given over to cultivation as allotments in Britain has fallen, while the number of would-be gardeners has increased. In 1969 there were about 560,000 allotment holders in the country, covering 60,000 acres; by 1977 the number had declined to 498,000 covering 50,000 acres.

It is estimated there are about 120,000 people on waiting lists, although surveys have shown that there is much surplus land in towns and cities that could be cultivated.

Allotments began as compensation for villagers when the Enclosure Acts were passed. By the middle of the last century they were firmly regarded as a way in which the so-called labouring classes could supplement their income.

A committee of inquiry in 1969 suggested that, as allotment holders were no longer necessary to alleviate poverty they should be regarded as a valuable form of recreation. The committee did not foresee how inflation would lead to thousands enthusiastically widening the spade to help their finances.

The committee also favoured more family recreational use of leisure gardens, as they would have them called, with proper landscaping, car parks, lavatories, central pavilions and individual chalets. They were impressed by their experience elsewhere in Europe.

But many allotment holders have stubbornly refused to give up their ramshackle toolsheds. As Mr Farmer pointed out, gardeners did not think leisure gardens and chalets would match the British climate.

British allotments certainly offer value for money. Rents are generally low and it is estimated that the standard plot can produce a £130 worth of vegetables. The amateur experience has been that the cabbages and lettuces were all ready at the same time, to the benefit of countless friends.

prospect. Now I can go out and start planning my life again for myself and my wife. I shall be happy to go back to Longbridge."

Mr Roy Orchard, aged 54, a transport union shop steward whose dismissal stands, said: "It is not over yet. The unions will have to go back to the men on the shop floor."



Herr Gerhard Kosa, one of 21 survivors of the North Sea collision between two ships, in hospital yesterday.

Reign of terror' killer is sent to prison for life

A killer who was said to have reigned of terror in Surrey was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment for killing a schoolgirl aged 14.

Sentencing Kenneth Kirton, 32, the Recorder of London, told him: "You represent a continuing terrible danger to the public and particularly young and pretty girls."

Mr Kirton, aged 32, a courtier, of Parkhurst Fields, near Hindhead, Surrey, denied murder but admitted

the manslaughter through diminished responsibility of Clare Hutchinson. He also admitted attacks on two other girls in the same area near Farnham, Surrey.

Mr John Marriage, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Kirton had snatched the girl as she walked to school last June, drove her to a wood and strangled her after trying to have sexual intercourse.

Clare Hutchinson, of Dene Walk, Farnham, had been reported missing and a search was under way when Mr Kirton attacked another girl, Jacqueline Glaysher, aged 16.

Contempt ruling reserved

After three days of legal argument, the Court of Appeal yesterday reserved judgment on an appeal by Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer of the national Council for Civil Liberties. She was contesting a ruling that she committed a serious contempt of court by allowing a journalist to see Home Office documents that had been read in open court.

OVERSEAS

Zimbabwe may reject aid package if British insist on terms

From Stephen Taylor Salisbury, Jan 30

Senator Enos Nkala, the Zimbabwe Minister of Finance, made a scathing attack on Britain's aid policy in the House of Assembly today shortly after announcing a mini-budget introducing tax increases.

Senator Nkala, the most outspoken member of the Cabinet since the dismissal of Mr Edgar Tekere earlier this month, said Zimbabwe was "at war with Britain over aid" and suggested that donor countries should tailor their budgets to meet Zimbabwe's needs.

White Zimbabwean ministers have expressed considerable disappointment recently with the grants made since independence in the light of expectations after the Lancaster House agreement. Senator Nkala's speech marked a new level of frustration.

He said that negotiators for the nationalist side at Lancaster House had felt able to agree to the proposals only on being assured that financial support for the land reform programme would be readily available.

"It was understood by us that this support would be in grant form," he said.

The British offer of £75m over three years, which was to have comprised a grant of £27m and a loan of £48m, has been the subject of recent negotiations and Britain has increased the grant offer to £47m with the remaining £28m to be a loan.

Senator Nkala said: "I reject this as still unacceptable." Later he added: "Either they take all of this money and get out of here or they give us all

The Government had faced enormous problems when it took office and had a right to expect greater generosity from Britain, which could not discharge its responsibilities "with the meagre aid now suggested".

He said: "The aid donors, specifically Britain and America, know that we cannot embark on the huge land programme without greater aid to help us meet the constant obligations regarding compensation."

The minister said donor countries would have "one last opportunity" to show their good faith at the donors' conference here late in March.

Zimbabwe's needs, he said, "have priority over their own national problems and plans. Only by fulfilling those needs would Africa have confidence in the sincerity of the developed world."

The mini-budget announced by Mr Nkala increased the surtax on income tax by 5 per cent, abolished the 15 per cent investment allowance and increased the tax on alcohol and tobacco.

Whitehall surprise: Mr Nkala's adverse comments on British aid caused surprise in Whitehall last night where it was felt that the British contribution to the new state had been quite handsome (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

In addition to the aid package, Britain is continuing training grants to Zimbabwean students to the tune of £11m—and is giving military aid worth £3m. Of the debts of the previous Zimbabwe regime, £33m has been rescheduled and £22m written off.

Trustees appointed to run Salisbury newspapers

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Jan 30

The board of trustees who will take over the running of the press in Zimbabwe was named here today and presented to President Banda, who described them as "distinguished Zimbabweans of the highest calibre".

The trustees include a doctor, a businessman, a lawyer, and the wife of a former prime minister of Southern Rhodesia, and appear to fulfil the pledge made by the Government that those appointed to take over the South African-controlled holding in Zimbabwe's five main newspapers would have no political affiliations.

However, the trustees' responsibilities have not been made clear. Dr Davidson Sadza, the chairman of the trust and a Salisbury doctor, said he did not know whether it would be empowered to appoint the editors of the five papers. He saw the trust's duties as mainly financial.

The takeover of the Argus Company's 45 per cent holding in Zimbabwe Newspapers (1980) was announced on January 3 by Dr Nathan Shumba, the Minister of Information, who

claimed that under South African influence the newspapers had been responsible for misrepresentations and distortions. He said that the present editors would be replaced by journalists with experience of African nationalist politics.

The members of the trust include Mrs Grace Todd, the wife of Senator Garfield Todd, a former prime minister who campaigned for black political rights in the 1960s and was detained by the Smith regime, and Professor Walter Kamba, principal-designate of the University of Zimbabwe.

Mr John Ellis, president of the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, is to be the vice-chairman.

President Banda said he hoped the trust would "project the utmost impartiality and objectivity". Under the trust, there would be room for press criticism of the Government.

The daily administration of the trust will be handled by Mr Robert Mandevu, who represented Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party in Swaziland during the bush war, and Mr Alan Wateridge, former editor of the *Zambia Daily Mail*.

Washington delivers harsh sermon on Soviet actions

From David Cross Washington, Jan 30

It has been a bad week for the Soviet Union in Washington. First, Mr Alexander Haig, the new Secretary of State, accused Moscow of aiding and abetting international terrorism. Then President Reagan himself accused the Russians of lying and cheating.

But the final straw was the treatment afforded to Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador and dean of the diplomatic corps in Washington. When he arrived in his limousine at the State Department for his first audience with Mr Haig late yesterday he discovered that one of his most significant privileges had been withdrawn.

During the past two administrations, Mr Dobrynin, who has been Moscow's representative here for nearly 20 years, has been allowed to enter the State Department through the garage in the basement. This enabled him to avoid both the discomfort of sudden temperature changes and possible harassment by reporters lurking around.

But when his chauffeur tried

to drive down the ramp to the basement yesterday, he was stopped by an irate guard and forced to back out. "It is normal practice for all ambassadors calling at the State Department to enter the building via the diplomatic entrance," a spokesman for Mr Haig explained.

"We had notified the Soviet Embassy that Ambassador Dobrynin would be met there, so no arrangements were made to allow his car into the basement," he added. Mr Dobrynin, himself, made light of the incident. On his way out of the department when he was asked whether he was impressed with the Administration's new style he responded: "Yes, I'm impressed, adding that there was 'no problem'."

It was not immediately clear why Mr Dobrynin had called at the State Department, but it was thought that he might be carrying a response from Moscow to an American warning that a Russian invasion of Poland would have a long-lasting impact on relations between Washington and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Ambassador might

also have responded to protests from Mr Haig about recent Soviet press statements claiming that Washington was using the end of the hostage crisis as an excuse for invading Iran.

At the regular State Department briefing yesterday, a spokesman for Mr Haig explained that this sort of "propaganda" statement by the Soviet media was one of the points Mr Haig had in mind when he accused Moscow of fostering international terrorism. At his first press conference since taking office, Mr Haig promised to make the fight against terrorism one of the main priorities of the new Administration's foreign policy.

The spokesman then ticked off a list of five different types of Soviet action which the new Administration considered to be an illustration of Soviet involvement in terrorism.

They were: the provision of Russian financial support, training and arms for groups like the Palestine Liberation Organization; use of surrogates like the Cubans and Libyans to provide similar assistance for terrorist groups; propaganda and material support for so-

called "national liberation movements" like the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador; the use of propaganda to foment distrust for the United States, for example, during the long hostage crisis in Iran; and general Soviet advocacy of armed struggle as a solution to regional problems, for example, in Namibia.

The spokesman explained that Soviet actions of this kind would have an important bearing on the Administration's attitude to the future course of Soviet-American relations. "This Administration very clearly is going to take into consideration the entire gamut of Soviet behaviour," the spokesman said. "We are not going to have selective détente."

This clear break with the East-West policy of the Carter Administration was enunciated even more clearly by the President during his first televised press conference here yesterday. "I happen to believe that you can't sit down at a table and just negotiate that (a strategic arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union) unless you take into account all the other things that are going on. In

other words, I believe in linkage," Mr Reagan said.

The President also used some of the harshest words used by an American president in recent years to denounce the behaviour of the Soviet Union. "So far détente has been a one-way street the Soviet Union has used to pursue its own aims," Mr Reagan said.

"I know of no leader of the Soviet Union, since the revolution and including the present leadership, that has not more than once repeated in the various communist conferences they hold, their determination that their goal must be the promotion of world revolution and a one-world socialist or communist state," he said.

"Now as long as they do that and as long as they, at the same time, have opened and publicly declared that the only morality they recognize is what will further their cause: meaning they reserve the right to commit any crime: no lie, to cheat, in order to obtain their ends. I think when you do business with them, at a détente you keep that in mind," he concluded.

He also made it clear that his

Administration was in no hurry to conclude a new strategic arms limitation agreement (Salt) with Moscow. Although he was willing to begin "discussions", the United States should "not negotiate on the basis of trying to effect an actual reduction in the numbers of nuclear weapons."

He was opposed to the ratification of the Salt 2 agreement negotiated by the previous administration because it permitted a continued build-up of strategic nuclear weapons on both sides and authorized the Soviet Union, in particular, to embark upon "an immediate increase in large numbers" of its own weapons.

For those who had followed closely the words of the new President during the recent election campaign, his tough utterances yesterday came as no great surprise. But the fact that he has toned down his view on the Soviet Union not one iota since assuming office must, at the very least, be causing some discomfort among members of the Politburo.

Leading article, page 13



The deaths of 1,181 elephants provided this array of 12 tons of illegal ivory found in Sudan on board a ship at Port Sudan.

Pravda says Solidarity tries to destroy state

From Michael Binyan Moscow, Jan 30

The Soviet Union today echoes the ominous warning that the Polish government that measures would soon be taken against Solidarity, the independent trade union movement, if the strikes continued.

Tass agency repeated the warning by the Polish party leaders that the crisis in the country was deepening and the situation rapidly degenerating into anarchy.

Giving clear backing to the Polish Government's tough new line, the strikes and their leaders, Tass spoke of a dangerous intensification of actions and trends: the seizing of state institutions, mass absenteeism, strikes and disruption and a campaign against leading officials and the violation of law and order.

"All efforts by the Government to stabilize the situation in the country and lead it out from the crisis are being reduced to nothing. Elements of chaos and anarchy have been introduced into the country's life, endangering the destiny of the state and its citizens. Forces hostile to the socialist state are becoming ever more active," Tass reported.

The news agency said the Polish constitution gave the Government power to take action to preserve order and discipline and ensure proper conditions for normal life. The Government would take whatever measures were necessary to ensure that enterprises functioned normally in keeping with the public interest.

Today, Pravda carried a long report by a Tass correspondent in Warsaw which "virtually accused Solidarity and its leaders of having bent on the destruction of the Polish state and the overthrow of communism. It is the first time that the Russians have levelled specific accusations against Mr Lech Walesa and his fellow Solidarity leaders and reflects

the growing Soviet alarm and exasperation at the intensifying social and political crisis in Poland.

Pravda spoke about blackmail, threats, provocations and physical force, as well as anarchy being used by the leaders of Solidarity.

The union was making ever greater political demands and transforming itself into political opposition to the party and Government, it alleged. The demands over Saturday working were only a tactic being used by Solidarity's leaders and the anti-socialist forces behind them.

The newspaper said the economic crisis and the sharp questions now facing the Polish people could not be solved by political adventurism and anarchy.

It linked specifically Solidarity with KOR, the dissident "Self-Defence Committee", which the Russians have frequently attacked as an anti-communist organization, and the report said it was helping those in the West who were hostile to people's Poland.

The plans of the counter-revolutionaries were clear: They aimed to bring down the government through the use of strikes and small political opposition in its place.

"Things have reached an alarming state in the country nowadays," Pravda said, amplifying the Tass report.

Cheap barley: "All-bids" for the Polish surplus of barley surplus by traders acting for Poland have been rejected (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes). EEC officials who vet sales from the Community grain "mountain" decided that the six bids made for 50,000 tonnes of Polish barley were "unreasonably high".

It appears that members of the Community's cereals management committee had decided that the commission sought by British traders for handling the deal was too high.

Winter fails to take fight out of Afghans

From Our Own Correspondent Delhi, Jan 30

In spite of the winter weather the insurgents in Afghanistan are unfurling in their army of Afghan and Soviet troops, according to diplomatic sources here.

There has been guerrilla activity during the past few days all over Afghanistan: in Helmand province in the south, Farah province in the south-west, in the central provinces of Parwan and Bamian, and the Samangan region in the north.

During the past week, actions now typical of the warfare in Afghanistan, there was fighting between mujahideen and Afghan and Soviet forces in several villages between Charikar and Jalsorai, about 50 miles north of Kabul.

Many houses, were reported to have been levelled by bombardment and the mujahideen are carrying on their struggle relentlessly and that few parts of the countryside from the Russian point of view, can be considered to be truly under control.

Today's reports carried nothing that would substantiate the speculative and nebulous reports of a few days ago that some mujahideen groups might be armed with rockets and that the damage allegedly done by rockets may be part of the routine exaggeration, wishful thinking and unverifiable rumours that are an inevitable part of a confused and low level war in a remote part of the understandable desire among Afghans and others to ensure that Afghanistan and the Russian action do not slip from public view.

According to diplomatic sources here, the city of Kandahar keeps up its reputation for lawlessness. Shooting is heard on most evenings and there have been attacks on government buildings and schools.

Meanwhile, the mujahideen continue to ambush government convoys.

Correction

President Reagan's freeze on promulgating new federal regulations in Washington, not 650, as printed yesterday.

Rethink on British aid policy

By David Spanier Diplomatic Correspondent

An admission that the Government's initial response to the Brandt report "may unintentionally have given a mistaken impression" was made by a Foreign Office minister last night.

The comments are a sign that the Government is now taking a more positive attitude towards aid to the Third World, in the face of widespread criticism of its previous policy.

"I entirely accept that more needs to be done," Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said. "I hope that 1981 will be a year of realistic debate and practical action."

Mr Hurd, who was addressing the Oxford University United Nations Association, said that Britain had felt bound to reduce the official aid programme as a contribution to the general policy on cutting expenditure.

"This is sad because we believe that our British aid programme gives good value for money," Mr Hurd said. Two thirds of it went to the poorest countries in the world.

Mr Hurd said that the debate on the Brandt report on ways of helping the Third World had got off to "a rather ragged start" and at the outset there was an attempt "to use the report to rebuke the Government" for its cuts in British aid.

For the Government's part "the matter of fact tone of its memorandum to the Commons Select Committee might have given a mistaken impression," Mr Hurd said. He believed now there was wider understanding of Britain's contribution.

Fire heading for national park

Nairobi, Jan 30.—Piercing fires, fanned by high winds, have destroyed 12,000 acres of moorland at altitudes up to 12,000ft on the Aberdare mountain range north of here.

Local forest and game department staffs, backed by all available government departments, are trying to head the fire off by establishing fire breaks before it reaches the Aberdare National Park forest area. It may have been started by honey hunters smoking out nests of wild bees.

Ottawa warned on constitution

By George Clark Political Correspondent

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, and the Federal Government were warned by a House of Commons Select Committee yesterday that if they expect Westminster to endorse the revised Canadian constitution now being debated in Ottawa they should seek agreement from the provincial governments.

The committee notes that the legality of the Federal Government's proposals is being challenged in the Canadian courts by six of the 10 provincial governments.

Sir Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Stroud and chairman of the committee, emphasized that British MPs did not want to be drawn into Canadian internal political disputes.

"Some people may not realize that it is the duty of the British House of Commons, imposed upon it in 1931, that we should in fact be the guardians of certain aspects of the Canadian constitution until they are asked to relinquish that obligation," he said.

"We never have been asked to do that, so our powers to amend that constitution still remain... from a practical point of view our position is

made easier because we know that there are six provinces against the present proposals; never before has there been more than one."

The select committee suggests that Westminster "in the exercise of its undoubted legal powers" might reasonably consider setting a term of years beyond which the present constitutional position (the need for the British Parliament's endorsement) could not be expected to continue.

Sir Anthony said it was 50 years ago when the British Parliament was asked to continue its trusteeship role in relation to the federal structure of Canada. It would not be for the convenience of Britain or to promote good relations between two Commonwealth countries for the present system to continue for another 50 years.

The British Government and Parliament select committee has a particular request from the Federal Government was so out of line with the established constitutional position that Westminster could rightly decline to act on that request.

Sir Anthony Kershaw conceded later that it would be possible for MPs and peers to seek to amend the constitution. In the event that the Canadian Federal Government sent over

proposals which still did not have the consent of six provincial governments it would be open to MPs of all parties to seek to amend the legislation to protect federal rights.

With six out of 10 provinces opposing the federal Government in the courts and two others expressing misgivings, the select committee had to consider whether there was a criterion for measuring whether a request accorded with the wishes of the Canadian people "as a federally structured community."

"We do not think the British Parliament should invent a criterion of its own," the report says. "What is needed is a criterion with a basis in the constitutional history and politics of Canada. Such a criterion seems to us to be available."

"For example, a federal request that had the support of the two largest provinces and 50 per cent of the western and 50 per cent of the Atlantic populations would be one that could be said to correspond to the wishes of the Canadian peoples as a whole."

That advice to the Commons will clearly have great importance if Mr Trudeau cannot get the agreement of the provinces.

Israel forces in artillery fire exchange

From Our Correspondent Tel Aviv, Jan 30

United Nations observers in southern Lebanon reported that Israeli forces and Palestinian guerrillas continued exchanging artillery fire today.

Scattered incidents were reported on the eastern flank where shelling started late on Wednesday night as well as on the Mediterranean coastal flank.

Israelis said the Palestinians started the fighting with unprovoked Katyusha rocket barrages at the towns of Kiryat Shmona and Metuliah in Galilee.

Military analysts in the Israeli media said the shelling appeared to be an extension of artillery exchanges between the Palestinians and Israel's Lebanese Christian allies under Major Saad Haddad. The Palestine Liberation Organization has claimed Israeli artillery supported the Lebanese forces.

United Nations observers said that hit Kiryat Shmona early today came from Palestinian positions near the twelfth century crusader castle at Beaufort.

No one knows how many astrologers there are in India, although it was estimated at a recent astrology conference in Delhi that there are 300,000. The president of the conference, who is a Cabinet member called for the establishment of a university chair for astrology and an astrologer's seat in the Indian Upper House.

Dr Lokesh Chandra, director of the Indian Institute of Culture, said that Hindus take the view that astrology is one of numerous influences in their lives. "It is something to be taken into account. It does not play a decisive role with most people, but an astrologer's advice is certainly considered when decisions are being arrived at."

Belief in astrology cuts across caste and class and there are astrologers and palmists to suit all tastes and incomes.

Mr Sarathy, who learnt some of the science from his father before going into the deeper reaches of planetary influence and character study, started in business as a three-question-for-rupees basis. Now he charges about £5 a consultation.

Diplomat defects to West

From Our Correspondent Vienna, Jan 30

A Romanian diplomat and cipher expert in Vienna has defected to the West, it has been announced. He took with him more than 100lb of classified documents.

Mr Florian Rotaru, who is 28, had defected since 1979 but had planned his defection for five years. It was then that he began to collect copies of the classified information he coded and decoded in Bucharest.

On the day of his defection—November 23 last year—he was the only diplomat in the centre embassy building in the centre of Vienna.

Marcos election idea rejected

Manila, Jan 30.—Philippine opposition leaders today rejected President Marcos's call for a presidential election this May, saying they did not believe free elections could take place as long as the "apparatus of dictatorship" still exists.

The opposition reiterated its call for a transitional government to "clear the air" before holding nationwide elections.

—Agence France-Press.

Peru opposes OAS role in conflict with Ecuador

Lima, Jan 30.—Peru would reject any intervention by the Organization of American States in its border dispute with Ecuador, Señor Javier Arias Stella, the Foreign Minister, said here last night.

Peru abstained during a vote by the organization's executive council in Washington. The council approved by 20 votes (with three abstentions) an Ecuadorian request for a Foreign Ministers' meeting to discuss the Peru-Ecuador border incidents, which broke out over the upper Amazon's rich oil deposits.

The meeting will take place in Washington on Monday.

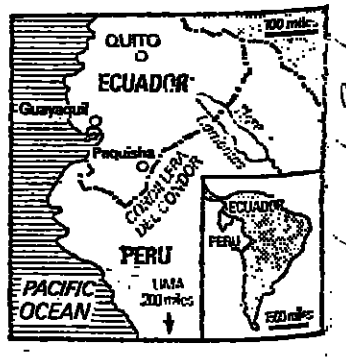
In Quito, Ecuador, a military communiqué described the border situation as "stationary" after Ecuadorian forces had fought off an attack on the Paquisilla military garrison.

Ecuador has called for negotiations to settle the dispute, which it said was caused by the "military occupation of Ecuadorian territory by Peruvian troops since 1941".

Peru, whose main oilfields are between the Tigris and Corrientes rivers in the north, in territory acquired by its 1941 war with Ecuador, is exploring for oil throughout the frontier region where boundaries Ecuador challenges.

Ecuador, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, produces approximately 11 million tons of oil annually, and has reserves of about 175 million tons.

Peru produces about 10 million tons a year, with reserves of 98 million tons.



In July, 1941, the two countries were involved in a brief but bloody war that was overlooked in the great catalogue of the Second World War.

In January, 1942, under pressure from the United States, the neighbours signed the treaty of Rio de Janeiro, and Ecuador ceded more than half its Amazon territories to Peru. In 1948, Ecuador denounced the treaty, and has repeatedly expressed its claims to the Amazon lands.

Ecuador, a small agricultural country, has a population of about 3,000,000. It is one of the continent's poorest nations.

Peru, about four times the size of Ecuador and with a population almost double, has one of the best-equipped armies in Latin America. Its aircraft and tanks are French and Soviet made, and its warships come from France, Italy and West Germany.

Despite its mineral wealth, Peru, too, is one of the continent's poorest nations. —Agence France-Press.

Saturday Review



The city of beautiful nonsense

The ritzy, rich and swanky have always left

Vogue on display in their drawing

rooms. It has kept them in touch with the

very latest, tip-top high fashion

and, through some classy travel writing,

told them where they might

while away their time. Here, from Vogue

of the Twenties, is Noel Coward

on the Venice Lido and, from the Fifties,

Henry Green on the city.

For a few months in every year, a fierce and relentless sun blazes down upon Venice—viciously, if a trifle superficially, described as "The City of Beautiful Nonsense". Enthusiastic steam launches forge raucously up and down the Grand Canal, causing perspiring tourists to clutch the carved wooden seats of their gondolas as they bounce up and down in the wash and swirl away from slippery green steps at the precise moment that somebody is attempting to get into them. Hordes of earnest women, with pince-nez and Baedekers, rush spiritedly through austere buildings to converge ultimately, wearing expressions of weary triumph, upon the Piazza San Marco, where, for a few brief moments, they relax and consume ices and cakes preparatory to gathering themselves together for renewed onslaughts upon the wistful remnants of further beautiful nonsense. Flocks of unembarrassed

pigeons are photographed incessantly with a charming disregard of social distinctions, perching upon the more vulnerable anatomical points of minor European royalties and self-conscious American matrons, and, all through the long, scorching days, clouds of effusive superlatives are wafted up and over the shrieking domes and spires of what was once the most graceful and dignified city of the world. It is not altogether surprising, therefore, that the wealthy exclusive nucleus of cosmopolitan, self-designated as the "sheik set", migrates with a slightly uncalled-for air of superiority to the Excelsior Hotel on the Lido. Here, for hours on end, the placid shal-lows of the long-suffering Adriatic are peppered with bobbing and gesticulating figures. There can be but small consolation for it in the knowledge that it is being ravished by the best people—salt water is a notorious leveller of class differences. Every square inch

of fine, powdered sand is churned up by the passing of innumerable toes and dented and depressed by recumbent sun-blistered bodies of various nationalities.

Perhaps the most astonishing deduction to be drawn from the Lido Beach as a pleasure resort is the tragically demoralizing effect that it has upon character. Pensively innocuous people who, during the larger portion of the year, lead useless but well-meaning lives, arrive at the Excelsior with so much as a harsh thought even for their best friends—suffering a little from inevitable traveller's fatigue, following a hot and dusty train journey—and desiring, only peace and hours of languorous tranquility.

Usually, a day or two passes before the first signs of moral degeneration begin to appear in varying forms of irresponsibility—sudden, violent quarrels at bridge or an unreasoning desire to frustrate the most harmless plans suggested by casual acquaintances in the worthy cause of general enjoyment. In the case of more dominant personalities, a few hours are necessary in order to bring forth those treacherous impulses and revoltingly primitive desires, which, if we are to believe Monsieur Gustave Flaubert, are firmly embodied in the most charming natures.

For the benefit of the mercifully uninitiated, it would, perhaps, be well to describe this Gomorrah of frowzy splendour. An undercurrent and, incomplete wooden pier wanders listlessly for a few yards into the sea and stops short abruptly, as though discouraged by its own unattractiveness. An amazingly hot strip of sand is semi-circularized by two rows of cabanas, or bathing huts, intersected by narrow plank paths that scorch the soles of the feet unless some person has flung down a wet bathing-dress and left a damp patch of grateful coolth.

A wider board walk leads from the centre of the beach to a majestic flight of steps culminating in the terrace of the Excelsior Hotel. It is not considered etiquette to penetrate as far as this unless comparatively clothed. Within the lounge an air of well-ordered civilization soothes the senses—one or two of the bridge players actually seem to be enjoying themselves, unlike their scowling friends on the beach, who spend hours squabbling viciously and brushing flakes of their own sun-scorched flesh from the table.

The visitors who live in Venice and come out to the Lido only for the day have more chance of ultimate salvation. By the time that they have reached their hotels in the evening and dressed and dined, the sour lines have been eradicated from their faces and their sanity of outlook restored. They begin to chatter and laugh again, sublimely unconscious of the pit from which they have escaped. They glide about peacefully in gondolas and watch marmosette-like figures jiggling about on lantern-bung Serenatas. The lights on the Piazza are lazily extinguished. Dim couples wander through the shadows, occasionally speaking Italian—until, at last, for a few hours, the crowd-cracked city succumbs to the weary sleep of gently decaying beauty.

Venice, where no ice is, and green has never been, at dawn the fishless stinking sea milk white, a pink palace domed into a sky of milk and towards which one black gondola is being poled. Venice where the only horses must be statues and they have yet to put up motor cars in stone, oh Venice with no bicycle bells but with a Bridge of Sighs and Casanova always on a roof—the sun is rising must bring azure to your roads of sea-sideless with a steadily rising stretch. Venice where Proust thought to travel and never did. Venice they somehow missed when bombing. Venice which is still here but for how long, and will it be too late soon, the pigeons. St Mark's, a populace standing under colonnades angrily arguing prices, the sun at noon too sharp striking light off marble, the brazen horses hot and dry to touch—up in that dormer window on the lead roof a maid stretched in black, snoring on the bed with skirts up about her mouth, the natives poling spaghetti down. Venice which is too hot because she never greases—where do they get their drinking water or do they strike this like oil, are there derricks to gush it from the ocean into those old palaces past which the motor boats must not speak in case they bring the places down.

Venice, for the honeymoon, cushions at the rear in a little moving room, the gondolier who does not look back, but no he would be pushing from the stern—we would be stretched out before him—so what do they have shades on that little backward looking window through which his envenomed eyes at the corners of which two bluebottles sip brighter than jewels, the gondolier appraising our re-making, can you then draw a blind to exclude him or can he go to the bows to pole and not look over a shoulder, to stare into sun with his wounds of eyes while I wound you, my love, on cushions white like rice to the lap lap of water.

Venice, the lions of St Mark's in stone—did one such lion on a great afternoon swim in from blinding yellow sands every yard from the south, its home—an orange head stewart the sure sea, with salt-encrusted nostrils, eyes red, a white fish impaled on the claws of one forepaw all the sad way from Africa towards which Venice ever leans—did they then who live there catch its sobbing breath, the dark despair of effort a sounding band about the heart. Oh Venice of marble, my love unvisited, my honeymoon unspent.

Or is it at dusk when each emerald within the sea will rise to take the surface air, when light winds from the Bosphorus, the Golden Gates, waft from the East to cool the palace windows even now lighting against dusk and the sky is gold, when pigeons clap their wings to take evening flight in air that now is eyelid pink and the stretch—subside, when those blue-stoned walls can breathe and saints in stone do stretch to sigh for another day that is done in five, six hundred years, then, is it then, Venice, time for lovers in that darker dusk within the little room that glides while the gondolier hums.

Hanging to his bars the prisoner at his cell will see this evening dove flight, the maid in black and on her bed will yawn at them then draw her skirts down along far legs, the lovestick girl will drop on doves as they find their way, as the sea must fade, the sunset before they roost on an old statue's taut right arm, the marble shoulder, or on bronze imperishable ever folded wings of angels standing on a corner to await the daily death of Venice.

And the rising moon. Above a sea turned dark as night on which Venice ever leans her tresses the disc emerges apricot gold and every small wave set with diamonds, fanned by her desert breath, takes on an Afric sunshine only cold as death as dolphins come in out of the wide sea to Venice. For she is wedded to the sea. Her rulers the Doges, when each in his turn came to office, had this custom by which he was rowed out on to the main where he let drop a golden ring to away criss-crossed down into the ocean, to gleam, for Venice is wed to the sea called Mediterranean.

And the dolphins at night drive in from the sea. With their brief sigh as they come up to breathe, they are quicksilver in moonlight over Venice and in their play they do sigh for lovers adrift in the moonlight lane from Venice.

And these lovers, as they are urged by no action of their own into this old enchantment, leave behind as they must in their care for one another, marble blood in its veins under midday heat, now classically turned blue blooded in the moon, blanched, carved into a living identity with its statues that live for ever on the buildings of Venice which does not sleep at night.

Here, too, the noonday blaze which stunned Venice, which drew her stretch up to freight the air with living, has cooled, has turned as cold as silhouettes where the gondola cuts its own outline where no other vessel is and where, in one another's arms, cut off in our shade from the gondolier, we voyage more than ever by ourselves away from the cold marble forehead of Venice in which doves now swoon on statues and the night holds still and we, bereft in one another's warmth by the sheer moonlight, in one another's nyloned skin, each gently haloed in the other's breath, and silenced she and I, are silenced as we draw out from Venice.

For silence is best where we, while idly talking, might disagree under the clear stars, alone the gondolier forgotten. Nor is it safe for lovers to more than murmur in Venice, even out at sea. For behind them they have the storied pavements, great lives in mosaic, and above those fabled women swathed in marble idleness over great niches set in silken covered walls, there are ceilings dimmed now by night, unreflected by moonlight through the wide windows, there are heroes drawn over stretched motionless ceilings to vast designs which were painted to show each in his greatest moment and, thus painted, become the thieves of time; these are for us, in the city we have left behind, which our gondola has sunk beneath the skyline, these are the epit-

ome of all love stories, in mosaic, in statues and in great painting to bring us mortals down to little more than ghosts, but warm, off Venice.

So it is perhaps we should be chary of a honeymoon in or off the seaborne city. It may be too much has gone on or is pictured there. There could be frailty in our lives not to be endured under that magnificence. We might be found wanting. How then can the inhabitants live through such a challenge? The answer must be they are so used to riches that they no longer feel, or else they live in cross-eyed blindness.

Can one then have the heart, the impudence to visit Venice? Is that the reason Proust would never go? For against this, if it might be too hot by day or the stretch then too great, by contrast it would seem only too easy to set out by moonlight so that no couple, if given the miraculous chance, could fail, intent on their two selves, to sink Venice, as can be done tomorrow by the gondola covering of a moonlit lane of sea. Yet to leave her thus is but to come back to bed in Venice.

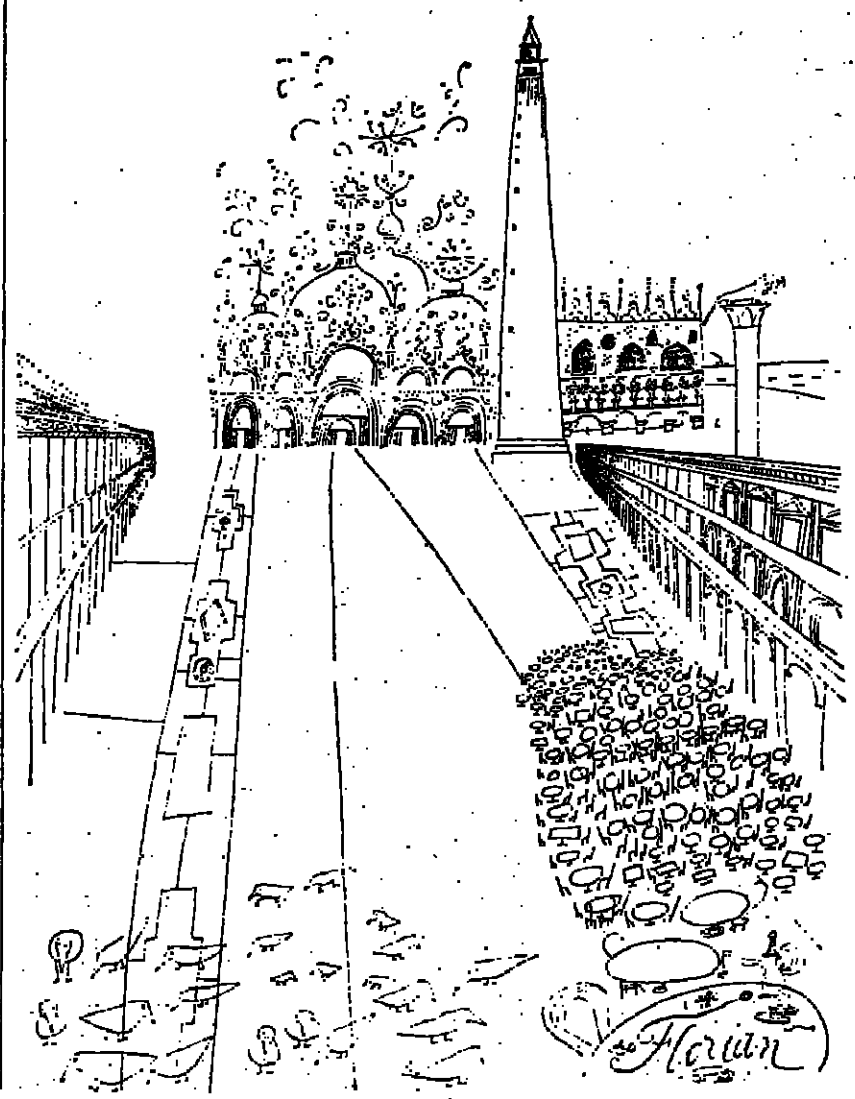
The dawn is always chill, better met between sheets. The sun, in first rising, is not warmer than the loved one's arms. So, in returning over the sea, in seeing that fabled city rise out of the ocean under moonlight, first one dome then another, and the gold crosses paired to white, next the roads of water between black shadows—oh here then must be who knows what of the great myths of the world that

each one carries within him. Venice by moonlight, all the whole literature of the world that every human being, the heir as we all are to each beautiful line created, is born to and holds in a molten casket in his heart for Venice.

For Venice is everlasting, lives by a life that cannot die except by bombs. It may be she is too strong for mortals, that we could feel too human to submit our will to hers. But sure as day follows night the morrow's sun will rise on Venice, the stretch, if you will, return. But the doves must come down from up the palaces, dawn will find her great statuary eyes wide opened. Prisons, palaces and churches will smile again as they have through centuries, and the people of Venice will go on unregarding. And while she is here still, through her and under her will continue to drift brave pilgrims from the West.

Then, as day closes yet once more, Venice will clothe herself for the moon. And, when that reflection rises from Africa in the moon's triumph over men, that is the time for all the world's lovers, living their lives over again (their lives perhaps to be) in the photographs and pictures of Venice: a city for ever wedded to the sea that there is no one does not carry by him and which each one of us lives by, despite himself, his inward eye fixed, perhaps it would best be not in, but rather trained upon Venice.

These extracts are taken from *Travel in Vogue*, to be published by MacDonald Futura on March 19, at £10.95.



Records of the month

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MADRIGALS
LES PLUS BEAUX MADRIGAUX
DIE SCHÖNSTEN MADRIGALE

French revelations and reactions

Lalo: Cello Concerto/Caplet: Epiphany. London, Philharmonia/Dutoit. Erato STU 71364.
D'Indy: Jour d'été à la montagne: La forêt enchantée; Tableaux de voyage. Loire PO/Dervaux. Pathé Marconi EMI C 069 16301.
Pierne: Images; Paysages franciscains; Les cathédrales. Loire PO/Dervaux. Pathé Marconi EMI C 069 16302.
Rabaud: Divertissement sur des chansons russes; La procession nocturne; Dances from "Méfistofele"; Eglogue. Loire PO/Dervaux. Pathé Marconi EMI C 069 16303.
Bizet: L'Arlésienne Suites Nos 1 and 2; Jeux d'enfants. Cleveland, Ohio, KSCX 6903.
Mussorgsky/Ravel: Pictures from an Exhibition/Ravel: Le tombeau de Couperin. Chicago SO/Solti. Decca SXL 7520.
Brahms: Symphony No. 5. Chicago SO/Solti. Decca D2210 2 (2 discs).
Mahler: Symphony No. 10 (revised performing version by Cooke). Bournemouth SO/Rattle. EMI C 058 5206 (2 discs).
Crosby: Dreamsongs; Elegy; Symphony No. 1. Scottish Chamber Orchestra/Brydon. OUP 203.

powerful opening allegro, where so much of the music is like speech in its expressive force and unpredictability.
Caplet's Epiphany will also come as a surprise to anyone who thinks of him merely as Debussy's assistant in such late works as *Le mariage de Saint-Sébastien*. Perhaps the sleeve note goes too far in proposing him as a missing link between Debussy and Messiaen, but it is doubly true that Caplet's music has a character all its own. It concerns the events of the Epiphany, but one would do well to ignore the programme and accept it purely as a processional with a most unusually subtle oriental flavour, a slow prayer with an amazing effect and a brilliant finale. Again, Lodoen is an excellent exponent, and the Philharmonia under Dutoit are as good in Caplet's fairy delicacy as in Lalo's hard strength.

More excursions into unknown French repertoire are offered by a trio of discs from the Loire Philharmonie under Pierre Dervaux, but this time the slighter are not less exciting and the technical recording tends to emphasize their worst qualities. Nor does the defensive sleeve note help one listen with favour to the *L'odyssée*. Indeed, the three movements of *Jour d'été à la montagne* seems a classic embodiment of these qualities of aristocratic pride and academicism the writer takes pains to deny in him. And the youthful symphonic poem *La forêt enchantée* is a piece of music calculated in its impetuosity. I much prefer the unpretentious picture-postcard painter of the *Tableaux de voyage*, probably better known as a piano suite than as a sequence of orchestral excerpts.
Another French pupil, Gabriel Pierné, is represented by a curious variety of works. I rather like the ominous prelude *Le tombeau de Couperin* (1915), which has been an absolutely appalling piece of patriotic nonsense star-

ring Sarah Bernhardt. The *Paysages franciscains* (1920) are the most dreadful religious film music, a collection of soft, sweet landscapes with distant bells, and the ballet *Images* (1935) is a set of character variations that only reminds one of much more talented composers, principally Ravel.
Henri Rabaud, who was director of the Paris Conservatoire between the wars, has even less personality of his own. His Russian divertimento comes a long way from Borodin and others, and the dances from his successful opera *Méfistofele* are the purest chocolate-covered Turkish delight, separated by a great gulf from the sensitive approach of Caplet at roughly the same time. There are also imitations of Faust (*La procession nocturne*) and Virgil (*Eglogue*) but these are remarkable more for their flamboyance than for any poetic insight.

But if with Rabaud we have ventured excessively far off the beaten track, it is a pity that Anglo-American companies should stick so firmly to the stock warhorses of the French repertoire. Lorin Maazel's Bizet disc and Georg Solti's Ravel are both of them, solid-blooded and brilliant but hardly necessary, and one is inclined to be less exhilarated by their dynamism than irritated by their faults: the day-glo colouring and unremitting sunniness of all that Bizet, the heavy character of the Ravel, the lack of any real excitement in the picture-postcard painting of the prelude from the *Tombeau de Couperin*. Here the music seems to be waving merrily at one from a car that has gone out of control, which is somewhat the feeling throughout.

Sir George's rush and trenchancy are, perhaps surprisingly, better accommodated in his recording of Bruckner's fifth symphony, where the imperious brass of the Chicago Symphony is exactly the right sound at exactly the right time. Ravel disc, this is a digital recording and sounds like it:

the new technique leaves one in no doubt about the conductor's drive and the sharp edges he projects in Bruckner's sound world. Of course, one may well prefer a performance that grows more of itself, like architecture, but this view is compelling except in its bizarre descent into Viennese waltz in the trio of the scherzo.
No such errors of taste mar Simon Rattle's recording of Mahler's tenth symphony, provided one accepts the propriety of the Deryck Cooke version in making available what was a far from completed work, and still for me the opening adagio which Mahler pretty well finished, is much the most impressive movement, especially in Rattle's powerfully urged account. But it is difficult to judge the authenticity of the rest when Mahler was doing so much that was new, and certainly this performance preserves almost continuously the feel of greatness. Rattle uses Cooke's final version, published five years ago, but with further modifications by Rattle and Goldschmidt, and himself that help in the quest for the real Mahler.

It is instructive to turn from this set to the new recording of music by Gordon Crosbie, not only because the only one of Crosbie's short first symphony is a Mahlerian adagio, but also because all three works were considerably altered by the composer at some stage in their lives. Each work embodies a process of refining individuality that is characteristic of the disc as a whole: the Elegy, op. 1, of 1958-61, with its English serialism of appealing period charm, gives way to a personal expression of the composer's own life, and the *Symphony of 1965-7*, and then, in *Dreamsongs* (1978), the composer discovers himself while meditating on "Britain's Ceremony of Carols." The only common feature is the cross-section of the right sound at exactly the right time.

Paul Griffiths

Radio
The Small Dictator

Some of the private archive material "never before broadcast" which featured in Britain's Fascist Leader, Colin Cross's assessment of Sir Oswald Mosley might have been better off unbroadcast still, so harsh and perhaps it did a little to sustain the impression which, in Hugh Purcell's production, samples of crowd oratory had already given of the passionate feeling the man was able to arouse. To some extent, as we heard, this was a calculated act—little more than the familiar public speaker's trick of "telling you what you're going to say, then say it, then tell you what you've said." On top of that there was the orchestration—again, to some extent worked out. And then there was that other element, something not controlled at all: naked, aggressive emotion of the same quality as Hitler could deliver, conveying the same situation of speaker and crowd helplessly egging one another on, figuring one could only be thankful that the ground on which the Mosley version fell proved stonier, and less receptive than he had thought.

In fact, as Mr Cross's programme suggested, Mosley seems seriously to have misjudged the receptiveness of the country as a whole, not to have realized how ill-prepared it was to adopt his vision if that also meant tolerating the strong-arm methods of his followers. The same disorder of the judgment that led to the abrupt departure from the Labour Party and indeed from Parliamentary politics after his first reverse in 1924, as well as in the harebrained scheme he later propounded for the exploitation of the British by a united Europe, Lord Shovel was heard to ascribe Mosley's political defection to a lack of "interest in the working classes"—a criterion which not all the present Labour membership might satisfy, and one which with its strong whiff of paternalism you wonder if the working classes want.

Ironically, Mosley was later to arouse the passionate interest of some of the very people he was thought to have deserted, those who in the East End of London became his ardent supporters. On the subject of this programme, however, it seemed that extreme gestures were in the nature of the man: he emerged as a romantic with some of the characteristics that often go to make up that temperament—fixation, belief, argument, but needing to be sustained by a high level of emotion, the two combining to create a certain ruthlessness. Perhaps such people do not easily endure reverses and settle down to get their way along the slow road of political possibility. The voice of Mosley recorded just before his death was interesting: it suggested a man who had once thrived on attention, excitement and large emotion but whose drugs had long since been withdrawn.

Excerpts from London Broadcasting's competition for schools were broadcast last Monday night as part of the record awards ceremony, which was presided over that morning by Sir Harold Wilson. In this second year of the scheme, the task was to turn in a dramatised documentary, a reconstruction of any other style of programme related to the House of Commons. The three winners were two (Hogarth Junior School, Chiswick and The Bishop Thomas Grant School, Streatham) had chosen events out of the reign of Charles I, while Godolphin and Laymer (Godolphin School, Devon) had chosen the story of the women's suffrage. The venture remains immensely praiseworthy and, as far as I could tell, a great deal of effort and imagination had gone into the winning entries. I say as far as I could tell, partly because the excerpts were short, but more because on this occasion I do believe the technical standard was even worse than last time—to the point of making it difficult to grasp what was going on. No one is making claims of professional broadcast quality but it seems to me that in future LBC might consider marking for technical merit and even offering a little technical guidance—if only on how to avoid gross distortion, mumble, echoing, classroom acoustics and that sort of thing.

Shelagh Delaney is not a name often heard on radio which was all the more reason to listen to her *So Does the Nightingale* (January 28, Radio 4). In this play David is dying, attended in total disregard of his wishes by the muttering local priest, obedient to the vindictive instructions of his pliant daughter, Alice, who has kept house for him. His other daughter, Amy, is back from New Zealand to be in at the end and share in the anticipated spoils while his sister Agnes also mulls about. But Alice has the odd surprise in store: her lover, a man who is the old man whose son she is off out with £1,000 in her bag and not planning to return. She doesn't know what she wants but she does know what she doesn't want—which is life as before. All understandable enough, except that in the character she has written there is little to suggest even a "negative" motive of any sufficient strength. Her energies, it seemed, ran only to frustrating the wishes of the dying. I could not believe in them as sustaining a precipitate departure from the living too.

Joan Chissell

David Wade

Fascinating polyphonic survey

The Most Beautiful Madrigals. Collegium Vocale, Cologne. CBS 93333 (3 discs).
Vivaldi: Sacred Choral Music, Vols. 5-7. Solists: John Alldis Choir/ECO Negri. Philips 6769 046 (3 discs).
Händel: Alcisto. Solists/Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood. L'Oiseau-Lyre DSDLO 581. KDSLC 581.
Haydn: Die Schöpfung. Solists/Chorus and Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields/Marriner. Philips 6769 047 (2 discs). 7699 154.

"The Most Beautiful Madrigals," claims the cover of the new anthology from CBS. Not everyone will agree, but at least this new selection ranges further, both in time and in place, than most of its kind. In time, it goes back to Pierre de la Rue, Isaac and Josquin, and forward to Gesualdo, Dowland and Gibbons. Geographically it ranges across Europe: one whole disc of the three is Italian, as certainly it ought to be, but on the others the traditions of Germany, the Low Countries, France, Spain and England are well served, too. It could have ventured further, to Denmark and Poland, where the Italian madrigal also implanted itself; examples from those countries might have been more apt than some of the pieces from Germany, the Low Countries and France, which are not really madrigals at all.

Still, this is a fascinating and convenient survey of European polyphonic song. The German and Dutch madrigals pieces that begin it tend to be either rather sober, simply harmonized paragon of the *Massen*, "Mein Gmüt ist mir gewisser", for example, which will quickly be recognized as the original of Bach's *Passion Chorale*: the passion here is of quite another sort, or rumbustious comical pieces. Even some that look from the words to be cheerful or amorous seem to emerge rather blandly. Spanish madrigals are rarities: here I specially relished the intense, dark emotion lurking behind examples by Vazquez and especially Guerrero, the latter's a real gem. There is also a long narrative example

by Mateo Flecha, quite a remarkable piece.

The French pieces are chansons rather than madrigals, brief and rarely contrapuntal. The Lassus "Bon jour, mon cœur" is surely too slowly and docilely sung, but two Josquin pieces are very sweetly, restrainedly given. I enjoyed the English work, which includes works by Morley, Weelkes, Dowland and Gibbons (the lovely "Silver Swan"); the spirit is finely caught in the singers' mixture of sophistication with openness and gaiety. The final Italian group includes the best, as certainly, of the two more Monteverdi examples as well as madrigals by Gesualdo, Marenzio and others. The Cologne Collegium Vocale are well equipped to traverse Europe in this way. They bring to the music an unusual rhythmic springiness, precise diction, perfect intonation and a tone quality that emphasizes clarity of line more than smoothness of blend; there is not much sensuous feeling for tonal quality, but as they move on to the richer Italian music something of this enters into their singing, and the harmonic twists and volupitous lines of the late Italian madrigalists are given full value. They must be more the best, as certainly best disciplined, of madrigal groups around these days. I wish CBS had provided proper translations, not mere synopses; these pieces need to be understood word by word if their musical images are to be fully appreciated. The recording is available, for the moment, only from specialist dealers.

The Vivaldi box represents the last: three discs out of seven—already issued as a complete set—containing the composer's entire sacred choral output. Not much of this music is well known here, except of course the *Gloria* (589) in the now standard numbering by Ryoan, Vivaldi's Köchel; but it is good, direct music, much of it designed for the orphan girls of the *Pietà* with male support, and even if the vocal lines are often a bit like string ones, they are still straightforward and rewarding singing material. I would not regularly listen to the three discs here at a sitting, but they all contain worthwhile music: the big *Dixit Dominus* that occupies most of the first disc, for example, has plenty of stirring chorale numbers and some excellent solos—the soprano ones are notably well sung by Margaret Marshall and Felicity Lott, and the other soloists are of comparable quality. Excellent choral singing from John Alldis's choir, Vittorio Negri directs with style and spirit, drama, too, where needed.

Händel's *Alcisto* music is not widely familiar. He wrote it, near the end of his life, to serve as incidental music to a new play by Tobias Smollett, but the play was never produced and the music was put aside (Händel later reused it for his cantata *The Choice of Hercules*). It consists of half a dozen arias (two very charming ones for the muse Caliope, one for Charon), choruses, dances and descriptive music. The music is cooly sung by Emma Kirkby, Judith Nelson, Paul Elliott and David Thomas, played in typically clean, lively fashion by Christopher Hogwood's Academy of Ancient Music: an enjoyable record.

Lastly, the new *Creation* from Neville Marriner and the St Martin's Academy. It catches happily the cheerful, confident spirit of the work in its fluent rhythms and its nicely moulded phrasing. There is a first-class team of singers: Edith Mathis does the soprano music charmingly, clean and pure in tone, in some ways giving greater pleasure here than she does in operatic roles demanding more sense of character; Aldo Baldin is a pleasantly warm tenor; the baritone is Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, in warm tone; the orchestra balance gives prominence to the woodwind, to good effect.

Stanley Sadie

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Händel's *Alcisto* music is not widely familiar. He wrote it, near the end of his life, to serve as incidental music to a new play by Tobias Smollett, but the play was never produced and the music was put aside (Händel later reused it for his cantata *The Choice of Hercules*). It consists of half a dozen arias (two very charming ones for the muse Caliope, one for Charon), choruses, dances and descriptive music. The music is cooly sung by Emma Kirkby, Judith Nelson, Paul Elliott and David Thomas, played in typically clean, lively fashion by Christopher Hogwood's Academy of Ancient Music: an enjoyable record.

Stanley Sadie

Trust: Elvis Costello. F-Best XXXLP11.
Face Value: Phil Collins. Virgin VZ185.
Making Movies: Dire Straits. Vertigo 6359 034.

Before dealing with the albums, it should be noted that some of the records of the month revolve at 45rpm. Among them are Blondie's "Rapture" (Chrysalis CHS 12 2485), which is funny, brainy, timely and as hard as nails; Department S's enigmatic "Is Vic There?" (Demon D1003), the best of the current crop of Doors derivations; and the Subterraneans' "My Flamingo" (Demon D1001), a pleasing evocation of Tom Verlaine, Bruce Springsteen, and the Searchers which never the less creates its own character. Both the *Demon* singles deserve to be burning up the airwaves alongside Deborah Harry.

There are no prizes for guessing that Trust is about deceit. Pillow-talk duplicities and private morality in general have long been Elvis Costello's most profitable preoccupation, and Trust is full of descriptions of "average glances and indiscreet yawnings" of men who "come without warning and leave without feeling" of compromise, "you can't see a dish she's the blue chip that belongs to the big fish." That is marvellous, but it comes close to destroying the mood of the "Big Sister's Clothes".

Although the arrangements and production are simple and unadorned, the music is a conceptual flourish of *Armageddon Forces* and *Get Happy!!*. Trust finds Costello at his most adventurous, out looking for challenges. The structures of the brooding "Shot With His Own Gun" and the equally disturbing "Big Sister's Clothes" find him expanding his already considerable technique, while his singing has never seemed more varied or expressive (the rhythmic elastic crooning on "New Lace Sleeves", while not completely assured, holds out particular promise for the future).

What is worrying, however, is that he seems to be subjecting his lyrics to a process of fragmentation. Whereas the rich ambiguities of "Alison" and "We Can't Be Friends" asked for the listener's participation, but eventually fell into place, many of the new lyrics are sequences of vivid but dislocated images which obstinately refuse to cohere. Perhaps this, and a certain lack of lyricism, are signs of his own considerable verbal facility, are signs of boredom. The flashy puns and internal rhymes, although often exquisite in isolation, too often disrupt the tone: "She's got eyes like a cat, you can't see a dish she's the blue chip that belongs to the big fish." That is marvellous, but it comes close to destroying the mood of the "Big Sister's Clothes".

The best of Trust is wound compellingly tight, but it may be that Costello now needs to loosen himself more ambitiously. I hope he will not forsake completely the directness of his earlier songs; behind the cryptic games, his moral vision is as precise and fierce as ever.

Face Value, the first solo recording from Genesis's singing drummer, offers no such intensity. It is a collection of songs in the front rank of contemporary adult pop (yes, there is such a thing, nurtured by the Beatle generation, holding on to its culture as it ages). Phil Collins has already turned himself into one of the most accomplished and endearing British rock singers, but Face Value also reveals him to be an able and sometimes inspired songwriter.

"In the Air Tonight" is the album's first single, already a substantial hit, and its clever textures will doubtless be followed up the chart by "I Missed Again", a mellow disco song with a nod to Chic in its melody and the wit and wit of "This Must Be Love". "You Know What I Mean" is a ballad delivered with a relaxed grace and a depth of feeling to rival the *Wonder*, has such slow values that it deserves to become a standard, and there is also a surprisingly literal remake of John Lennon's "Tomorrow... Never

Knows". Only one percussion workout, too, congratulations to Collins for his example of the old wave, at its most alertly creative, and much the same can be said of *Making Movies*, with which Dire Straits have rescued themselves from the catastrophe of the rushed and hollow *Communications*.

The crux of the matter is Mark Knopfler's decision to turn for inspiration towards the warm urban vignettes of Bruce Springsteen's early songs, aided by a more vigorous rhythm section in which Roy Bittan's piano is outstanding. Knopfler exactly reproduces the air of hushed wonder and the soft neon glow which bathed his mentors' "New York, New York" and "City of Angels" and "Thunder Road", but it is intelligently done and makes possible such lovely moments as the ecstatic guitar and piano play on "Tunnel of Love", the subtle nod to "Hours from Tulsa" in "Hand in Hand" and the thoroughly convincing passion of "Romeo and Juliet". As Springsteen himself has now abandoned the mode, one might as well be grateful for Knopfler's diligence; only "Les Boys", an unoriginal and rather crass imitation of homosexual nightlife, spoils the flow of a record which yields up its charms gradually but surely.

Richard Williams

Tuneful and inventive operatic conversation

Dargomizhsky: The Stone Guest. Milashkina/Sinyavskaya/Atlantov. Vedernikov/Belash/Ermel. EMI SLS 5196 (2 discs).
Tchaikovsky: The Oprichnik. Rozhdetsvenskaya/Legosteva/Dolukhanova/Tarkhov/Korolyov/Moscow Radio/Orlov. Melodiya D 0882148 (4 discs).
Janáček: Jenůfa. Benácková/Knaplová/Příbyl/Krejčík/Bruce Opera/Jilek. Supraphon 1116 2751-2 (2 discs).
Weber: Der Freischütz. Behrens/Donath/Kollo/Marek/Bavarian Radio/Kubelik. Decca D23503 (3 discs).
K235K32.
Haydn: Il ritorno di Tobia. Hendricks/Zoghby/D. Jones/Landridge/Luxon/Brighton Festival Chorus/RPO/Dorati. Decca D21604 (4 discs).

Dargomizhsky's *The Stone Guest*, his last opera, is known to music students for its pioneer treatment of whole-tone chords, and perhaps as an equally pioneer attempt to set an extant play. Pushkin's *Don Juan*, just as it stood, music for conversation without conventional arias or ensembles. Staged performances of it are rare outside Russia, though I am sure not the only opera devotee who pines to see it.

Curiously is the more whetted by EMI's issue of a Russian Melodiya recording, emanating from the Bolshoi Theatre. The acoustic is pleasant, by Melodiya standards, a little reverberant, not too much, the singing voices are rather close-miked, as so often in Soviet records of opera, but not distorted. Vladimir Atlantov brings a vibrant, resonant tenor and abundant gusto to the title role, and shares the chief honours with his Leporello, the excellent and cavernous bass

Alexander Vedernikov. Of Don Juan's two (only 1) conquests, both decently sung, Donna Anna has the more desirable music. Laura, the only songs, firmly Spanish in mood, sometimes performed by themselves.

The welcome discovery of hearing these records is that Dargomizhsky's conversational music is not like recitative (as might have been feared), but is a more fully developed melodic and inventive. Although *The Stone Guest* treats words as music's equal, EMI do not include text and translation in the record box, only an informative introduction and synopsis—with the inferably apologetic advice to follow the text in the published Pushkin edition. Since the opera occupies only three recorded discs, the fourth offers a clutch of arias from other relevant operas by Verstovsky, Rubinstein, Napravnik and Serov, as well as Rimsky-Korsakov and Dargomizhsky himself.

Tchaikovsky's addictions are also calling for records of his operas beyond the popular *Oncin* and *Queen of Spades*. *The Oprichnik* (1872) was his first operatic success, a gruesome tale of victimization in the reign of Ivan the Terrible. Operatically the four acts are clumsily put together, yet brimming with enjoyable music, typical of the composer at his most Russian.

The Melodiya recording, by Moscow Radio forces, is acceptably cast and performed, falling short of brilliance or distinction, and handicapped by unrealistic orchestral sound and poor balance in the bad old Russian tradition. That need not deter the enthusiast from going to Collier's bookshop in Charing Cross Road for writing to them at Denington Estate, Wellingborough, Northants; to



Mark Ermler recording *The Stone Guest*

go with the records, there is a book by Philip Taylor, containing a substantial essay and complete libretto in Russian and English, price £3.50.

From Czechoslovakia, indeed from Janáček's home town of Brno, comes a new set of his first successful opera, *Jenůfa*, a more than adequate stopgap since the disappearance of the HMV Prague set, and until Decca and Mackerras reach it in their Janáček series. Here, as in the HMV set, are Knaplová as the Sextoness (as complete an interpretation as Tinsley's), and especially cogent with the Czech original text, which makes her at present unsurpassed, and Příbyl as Laca, even more sensitive than before. Gabriela Benácková has so comprehensive a command of Janáček's personality that she can build it, phrase by phrase, from start to finish, showing each development as it happens, by her vocal acting. It seems to be from her interpretation that the sound of the orchestra, the tone of the direction, and even the gentle, warm, recorded acoustic take their tone.

Decca's new *Freischütz* has everything to commend it: the loving enthusiasm of Rafael Kubelík's conducting, René Kollo's virile, failed heroic Max, an ideally matched pair

of leading ladies in Helen Donath and Hildegard Behrens, Peter Meyen's terrified but powerful Caspar, and fascinating stereophony for the Wolf's Glen scene. It comes directly into collision with a DG set conducted by Carlos Kleiber, in some ways more imaginative in conception, but quite curious now and then. I would not be without either set, but for a first choice the new Decca one is the more reliably informative. The DG set will do the 'i's and cross the 't's.

Haydn's oratorio *The Return of Tobias* should not be taken as a new supplement to the famous *Seasons*. *The Creation* and *The Seasons* Tobias is an earlier, more traditional Austrian work, close to Italian opera seria, with a few choruses, mostly da capo arias in the florid manner, music for the person to enter to. It is a fine, well-recorded work, from start to finish, showing each development as it happens, by her vocal acting. It seems to be from her interpretation that the sound of the orchestra, the tone of the direction, and even the gentle, warm, recorded acoustic take their tone.

William Mann

A controversial disinterment

Schumann: Violin Concerto in D minor/Schubert: Konzertstück in F major/Fragor 507. Hlaváček Supraphon 1110 2285. Mozart: Piano Concertos in D minor, K466, and A major, K488. Brendel/Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields/Marriner. Philips Festivo 6570 023.

Beethoven: Piano Sonatas Nos 8-15. Schnabel. HMV Treasury RLS 754.
Beethoven: Piano Sonatas Nos 4, 9 and 10. Ashkenazy. Decca SLS 6601. KSCX 6903.
Ravel: Gaspard de la nuit. Gilels. Erato STU 1385.
Mozart: Piano Sonata in F, K553 and K494, and works by Beethoven, Schubert, Liszt, and others. Gilels. Supraphon 1111 2550.
Schubert: Piano Trio No. 1 in B flat/Notturno. Suk Trio. Supraphon 1111 1896.

Older music-lovers may still remember the dismay of Eugenie Schumann, the composer's youngest daughter, when in 1927, allegedly guided by spirits, Joachim's great-niece Jelly d'Aranyi decided to rescue Schumann's Violin Concerto, written only five months before his breakdown, from the tombment imposed on it, after which heart-searching, by Liszt, Beethoven, and others, Schumann himself. Today, while recognizing that only the slow movement does justice to Schumann's true genius, most of us prefer to know the concerto rather than ignore its existence. So all praise to Supraphon for a new recording, this time with a well-intentioned bid by the violinist, Václav Smit, to make it more appealing through small adjustments (such as octave liftings) in the solo part. But, loving as he is in cantabile, Smit makes heavy weather of the bravura. Nor does the conductor, Libov Hlaváček sufficiently clarify the orchestration, or release enough of the music's natural flow. An

old, now deleted, Szeryng/less mercurial than Schnabel (and plummier in recorded tone) he is much more his old caring self in his successor in G, and best of all in the more substantial E flat major sonata, Op. 7.

The reissue of Mozart's D minor and A major concertos from Brendel and the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields should prove a much more popular mid-price bargain, despite Brendel's uncharacteristic muting of the demonic undercurrents in the D minor work (as also in his earlier recording with the Vienna Volksoper Orchestra) and some questionably protracted cadenzas of his own in the finale. But the A major concerto (one of the first fruits of his new concert with Philips in the early 1970s) is a miracle of unhurried smiling grace in the first movement, of discreet embellishment in the slow movement, and of sparkling repartee with Neville Marriner in the finale.

In so far as reissues go, the month's collector's piece is nevertheless probably Volume 11 of Schnabel's Beethoven sonatas (Nos 8-15) in HMV's invaluable Treasury Series: a real reminder of golden days before recording became a heavy industry, with music examples galore, amounting to something scarcely less substantial than a BBC Music Guide. Returning to these performances after long absence, I must confess to a puzzlement at certain extremities of tempo, as they are sometimes slow when the marking is only *andante*. But, having grown up with Schnabel as God, I remain an idolater. Whatever the tempo, there is a revelation in every phrase that seems to remove scales from your eyes.

Two of the same sonatas turn up in Ashkenazy's latest Beethoven disc, which has the advantage in the E major work, Op. 14, No. 1, played as he

had a train to catch. Though less mercurial than Schnabel (and plummier in recorded tone) he is much more his old caring self in his successor in G, and best of all in the more substantial E flat major sonata, Op. 7.

The French pianist Pascal Payon (third prize-winner at Leeds in 1975) plays Ravel with a tenuous feeling and an unconvincing technical command even if not the super-sensitive ear for sonority, the sheer finger-tip magic, characterizing Gaviro's recent *Chapard de la nuit*. Here, "Le Gibet" is marginally too slow (though the constantly reiterated B flat is effectively ominous), while "Scarbo" for all its excitement, sounds just a little snatched taken so fast. The Sonata in G major, too, positive, with more resonance to Ravel's "très marqué" than "très doux". "Jeux d'eau" is brilliant.

Admirers of Gilels will probably be prepared to accept slightly synthetic Supraphon tone for the sake of so lucidly expressive an account of Mozart's composite Sonata in F (K553), which, taken together with two of Brahms's Intermezzi, tenderly played, and the first book of Debussy's *Images*, spell-binding despite its occasionally violent climaxes in "Reflets dans l'eau", were all recorded live at the 1973 Prague Spring Festival.

The Suk Trio's richly musical account of Schubert's first piano trio in B flat likewise transcends a recording less than ideal in clarity and truth. More relaxed than the Beaux Arts Trio in the first movement, the Suk Trio nevertheless transcends the Beaux Arts Trio in the second movement, the *Notturno* included as a full-up into a romantic serenade as opposed to the shadowy (but rather slow and protracted) nightpiece presented by the Beaux Arts.

Joan Chissell

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am

Horseback

David Vine (r.)

9.30 am

Multi-Coloured

Swap Shop

Non-stop

entertainment

for children

presented

by Noel

Edmonds with Keith

Chegwin, John Craven and Maggie

Philbin. 12.12 pm

Weather

12.15 pm

Grandstand

This afternoon's

line-up is 12.30 pm

Mophead, 1.00 pm

Racing from

Cheltenham at 12.50, 1.30, 1.55

and 2.30 pm

Boxing at 1.10. World

Cup Skiing 1.40. World

Bobsleigh

Championships from

Cortina at 2.15

pm. International

Aerobics from

Dorchester 2.50. In

International Snooker

from Wembley

at 3.10 and 4.05. Final

Score at 4.40.

BBC 2

10.35 am

Open University: Energy

in the Home. 11.00 am

What's it all

about? 11.25 am

Countdown in the

OU. 11.50 am

S101 Preparatory Maths

Angles. Closedown at 12.05 pm.

2.00 pm

The Franchise Affair

(1950) starring Michael

Denison and David

Cray. A mystery story

concerning the odd

happening in a

house named The

Franchise. 3.25 pm

Play Away with Brian

Cant. A history of

comedy and

music for children.

4.50 pm

The Unfaithful (1947)

starring Ann Sheridan,

Lew Ayres and

Zachary Scott. When

her husband is

attacked by a

stranger, she is

tempted to

betray him. A

classic of the

genre. 5.15 pm

Film: Payment in Kind

(1972) starring

Miles O'Keefe, A. C. C.

Clegg and John

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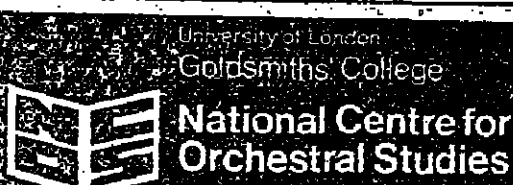
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Soloist: ROMAN JABLONSKI
Overture: Tancred... ROSSINI
Cello Concerto in E minor... DVORAK
Symphony No. 5 in E minor... TCHAIKOVSKY
22.30, 23.30, 24.30, 25.30, 26.30, 27.30, 28.30, 29.30, 30.30, 31.30, 32.30, 33.30, 34.30, 35.30, 36.30, 37.30, 38.30, 39.30, 40.30, 41.30, 42.30, 43.30, 44.30, 45.30, 46.30, 47.30, 48.30, 49.30, 50.30, 51.30, 52.30, 53.30, 54.30, 55.30, 56.30, 57.30, 58.30, 59.30, 60.30, 61.30, 62.30, 63.30, 64.30, 65.30, 66.30, 67.30, 68.30, 69.30, 70.30, 71.30, 72.30, 73.30, 74.30, 75.30, 76.30, 77.30, 78.30, 79.30, 80.30, 81.30, 82.30, 83.30, 84.30, 85.30, 86.30, 87.30, 88.30, 89.30, 90.30, 91.30, 92.30, 93.30, 94.30, 95.30, 96.30, 97.30, 98.30, 99.30, 100.30, 101.30, 102.30, 103.30, 104.30, 105.30, 106.30, 107.30, 108.30, 109.30, 110.30, 111.30, 112.30, 113.30, 114.30, 115.30, 116.30, 117.30, 118.30, 119.30, 120.30, 121.30, 122.30, 123.30, 124.30, 125.30, 126.30, 127.30, 128.30, 129.30, 130.30, 131.30, 132.30, 133.30, 134.30, 135.30, 136.30, 137.30, 138.30, 139.30, 140.30, 141.30, 142.30, 143.30, 144.30, 145.30, 146.30, 147.30, 148.30, 149.30, 150.30, 151.30, 152.30, 153.30, 154.30, 155.30, 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EDUCATIONAL



Applications are invited for entry in September 1981 for a full-time one-year course for the training of orchestral players. Applicants should be instrumentalists who have reached at least the level represented by a performer's diploma and who wish to pursue a career in the music profession. Auditions and interviews will be held in April 1981.

The NCOS is supported financially by the BBC, Independent Television Companies Association, Musicians' Union, Arts Council, several trusts and companies and has the full support of the Association of British Orchestras. The tutorial staff will consist of distinguished instrumentalists and conductors from Britain and abroad. The course will provide a unique opportunity for students to study both classical and contemporary music with leading members of the profession. Students who complete the course successfully will have reached the high standard now necessary to compete for entrance to the profession and will receive the Goldsmiths' Diploma in Orchestral Studies.

Goldsmiths' College is fifteen minutes by train from Charing Cross and the South Bank. Students will not only be in easy reach of the musical and cultural life of London but will also have the opportunity to participate in the rich intellectual and artistic life of a large and academically diverse college. Further details and application forms may be obtained from The Secretary, National Centre for Orchestral Studies, 21 St. James, New Cross, London SE14 6AD.

ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

MOBERLY

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP 1981-82

The College proposes to elect to a Moberly Senior Scholarship of £200 tenable from Michaelmas Term 1981. The Scholarship is open to women graduates to read for a higher degree.

Further particulars from The Principal, St. Hugh's College, Oxford, to whom applications should be sent by 1st April 1981.

ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

MARTINENGO CESARESCO TRAVEL GRANT FOR ITALIAN STUDIES 1981-82

The Governing Body of St. Hugh's College invites applications from graduates of the College for a Travel Grant, the value of not less than £500, for the period 1st October 1981-1st October 1982, to further the study of Italian language, literature or history.

Further particulars from The Principal, St. Hugh's College, Oxford, to whom applications should be sent by 30th May 1981.

ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE OXFORD

Application is invited for the following post-graduate award.

ELIZABETH WORDSWORTH JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

St. Hugh's College proposes to elect to an Elizabeth Wordsworth Junior Research Fellowship tenable for 3 years from Michaelmas term 1981.

Further particulars (including details of stipend) from The Principal, St. Hugh's College, Oxford, to whom applications should be sent by Monday, 23rd February, 1981.

ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

SCHOOLTEACHER

STUDENTSHIP

The College invites applications for a Schoolteacher Studentship for Hilary or preferably Trinity Term 1982.

Particulars may be obtained from the College Secretary. Closing date for applications: Wednesday, 1st April, 1981.

CINEMAS

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Collecting
Twigg on to sculpture

Most British collectors, being conservative in their taste, steer clear of contemporary art. A few painters or print-makers slip through the net and are allowed to be collectable—Hockney or Freud, for example. But private patronage of sculpture is almost non-existent. This is a pity because the last 20 years have seen outstanding developments in British sculpture; there are real opportunities for those with open minds and eyes.

In most people's minds sculpture suggests forms that are monumental and intimidating: "Something you bump into when you step back to look at a painting," was how Ad Reinhardt (a painter, of course) put it. Yet, while there will always be a place for public sculpture, a lot of the work now being done is much more accessible to private collectors: it has broken away from the idea that sculpture has always to do with crafting and building, and with the notion of the sculptor as a glorified handyman.

In fact, it may be useful to think of it more in terms of one thing happening in relation to another, of how a person stands vis-à-vis the world, something much more throwaway in more senses than one, especially as the new materials, which can be wire mesh, felt, aluminium, twigs, gauze, animal fat, even steam—are much freer than the traditional ones like bronze and marble.

This approach has opened up new possibilities for the medium, it can be about poetry, about storytelling, about humour and wit. The "new" sculptors believe they have more to give and take between themselves and material circumstances than painters, who, they claim, are more engrossed in a private world. Moving away from the static and hermetic as the new materials, which can be wire mesh, felt, aluminium, twigs, gauze, animal fat, even steam—are much freer than the traditional ones like bronze and marble.

There are dangers in this approach. The "Less-is-More" style of minimalism can become very empty. Nevertheless, there is a lot of sculpture around that could be of great appeal to private collectors and a visit to the Nicola Jacobs Gallery would be a good place to start if you are considering branching out into 3D.

At the moment the gallery is showing the work of Andrew C. James who, only completed his degree in the summer. He uses flower and leaf motifs in highly coloured "baroque" reliefs made from canvas, bamboo and wire.

Some of the pieces can't decide whether they are furniture or "art" —the chair and screen, but this does not matter as they are fun and not too demanding of space. Most are in the £500-£600 range.

Di Livey is another sculptor whose work is very collectable. Egyptian and Egyptian sculpture have been an important influence on her ideas. Some of her latest work is like a 3-dimensional still-life, for example, the Domestic Pieces—tall columns, or "altars" as she calls them, constructed of wood and layers of canvas and acrylic, on top of which sit "sculptured" photographs, fans and other items relating to her everyday life. Her work is a sculptural journal of things that happen to her and although she claims many of the pieces "describe" crises in her life, the bright pointillist surface of the work, a vocabulary of forms that suggests dressing up—tutus and bow ties, and the pantomime, make it very light-hearted and easy to live with.

John Maine's work is on a fairly large scale and is perhaps more suitable for sitting out of doors.

Of course there is no reason why sculpture cannot be put in a garden, and although we are accustomed to seeing Henry Moore's work in an open landscape setting, the ways in which contemporary sculpture can relate to the urban environment have not begun to be explored: it is significant, for there is no piece by Philip King on public display (outside of museums, that is) in London, although one is due to be sited in Fulham in the summer.

John Maine's favourite material is portland stone. He is fascinated by geometric structures like the polyhedron octahedron and so on, but his work is not so much about the geometric as it is about the material, the way it is shaped, and the way it is used. He is a sculptor who is not afraid to use the materials in a way that is not traditional, and he is a sculptor who is not afraid to use the materials in a way that is not traditional.

The drawings of the ancient ball courts Maine saw in the Yucatan are very evocative of the mystery that surrounds the ritualistic and sinister game in which the losers were executed. Finally the drawings show how the sides "were" as Maine says "dissolved and remade by harsh light and intense shadow" and how the "light camouflages" the volumes and the shadows turned into dense volumes themselves. The drawings are priced between £200 and £300 each and relating to these, the small clay studies for a



Spray 1980, by Andrew C. James.

Recessed Landscape are £50, for sale in a series of eight.

Paul Neagu's sculpture deserves attention because he is one of the few British artists with ambitions for their work comparable to those of the German artist Joseph Beuys. Neagu likes to think of himself as a sort of shaman of the visual arts and Neagu too is quite open about the esoteric orientation of his work. Originally from Romania, Neagu also has obvious links with Brancusi both in his use of materials, often rough hewn wood, and the values with which he endows his work.

He often uses a plough-shaped form—three legs supporting a small platform—in pieces titled "Hyphens", made of wood, bone and string. The two shorter ones stand for mother (nature), the father (culture), and the longer one for their offspring, art. "When sculptures are built on legs (like animals and humans) that satisfies an expression of uprising." These pieces are quite appropriate for a garden in fact some of the "Hyphens" have been constructed round trees outside. Neagu also makes prints and drawings.

Galleries showing sculpture include the Rowan, Bruton Street, London W1, Waddington and Nicola Jacobs, 23 Dering Street, London W1, and Anthony Stokes, Langley Court, WC2.

John Maine, c/o The Warwick Arts Trust, 33 Warwick Square, SW1, Di Livey, Chisenale Works, Chisenale Road, Bow, Tel 727 2261. Paul Neagu, 73a Highbury New Park, NS, 359 7511.

Betty Spektorov

The author is an artist and teaches art history at Middlesex Polytechnic.

Clive Barnes/New York Notebook

Thethane in trouble

One of the more curious appointments to what is cheerfully termed the artistic directorate of the newly-formed Lincoln Center Theater Company, was the opera conductor and director, Boston's own Sarah Caldwell.

The appointment seemed strange when made because she had never directed a play—at least professionally—in her life. Now that she has, it seems even stranger. With either blind courage or an arrogance that ranges from the idiotic, Miss Caldwell chose to make her directorial debut with *Macbeth*. In British theatrical circles—not that one would expect Miss Caldwell to be acquainted with them, you might wonder whether she had ever actually seen a staging of the work where the cast didn't sing—the play is widely regarded as unlucky. Indeed I know many distinguished actors who are too superstitious even to name the play, referring to it as "the Scottish play". It certainly has not proved very fortunate for Miss Caldwell, the Lincoln Center Theater Company, or the gifted but here luckless young actor, Philip Anglim, called upon to play Macbeth.

His youth and his director's mistakes have produced something of a mess. Anglim—so fine in last season's *The Elephant Man*—can find comfort in that it is neither rare nor even original to fail as Macbeth. As we know in Britain recently both Albert Finney and Peter O'Toole have been sensational failures in the role, whereas two other actors, perhaps less well-known, Ian McKellen and Keith Baxter, have had notable successes. Olivier was not a particularly good Macbeth, nor was Wolffe. Macbeth and Richardson have dodged it, and the two best classic Macbeths, I have seen, were Alec Guinness and Michael Redgrave.

The casting is almost all you need a moody, brooding introvert for Macbeth—one might have cast Christopher Walken, Stacy Keach, Anthony Hopkins or even Alec McCowen. But not Anglim, who at present seems to be an actor of grace and finesse rather than intensity. He will live to fight again, but here his almost unwavering, manic expression, gleaming eyes but scarcely desperate, and his almost unmodulated voice—the director was at the very least supposed to know something about "voice"—made his journey into hell as monotonous as a subway ride, if not nearly as dangerous.

Miss Caldwell, with the set designers Herbert Senn and Helen Pons, has decided to overcome her natural diffidence at working in a non-proscenium theatre—theatres do not come that way in an operatic context

—by building a rather pretty false proscenium, and having a blank-like setting dominated by an enormous catwalk, so good for sleepwalking, and a spiral staircase. All of this, unlike Carrie Robbins's costumes, is somewhat remote from mythic Scotland.

Miss Caldwell directs the fight scenes with a mixture of operatic fury and operatic woodenness and the whole play is heavy with antique gesture unlightened even by empty rhetoric. Amid this mish-mash, Anglim fights a good fight and loses. However, not everyone is so unfortunate—there are lucky some actors that even the most ungifted directors cannot submerge. Maureen Anderson is a most impressive Lady Macbeth—serene, dedicated and yet a spitfire in her passion. She never emulates Macbeth but seeks, not to push, but to inspire him. Her gentle madness is precisely the reverse coin of her sanity, and the performance is a perfect balance of strength and proportion.

I admired also Norman Snow's subtle but doomed Banquo—almost a Greek in his feel for tragic destiny. J. Kenneth Campbell was decently fierce and decently tortured as Macduff, but like his Lady Macduff, Keiliana Lee, he is not a particularly good actor. But everything about the production seemed either plucked or beleaguered.

Presumably the unsinkable Miss Caldwell will return to her world of opera, and her present unassailable position as the most interesting woman opera conductor in Boston, and, indeed, probably the country. Mr Anglim will bounce back, and Miss Anderson and Mr Snow will jump forward.

But meanwhile the most extraordinary thing is happening in Hartford. Mark Lamos, the company's new artistic director, is making the most unusual use of classic theatre. In the past three years he has established himself as one of the most gifted Shakespearean directors in the country. Two seasons, and four plays, at California Shakespeare Festival in Visalia, proved his talent beyond any reasonable doubt. While still remaining connected to the Visalia festival, he has now moved to Hartford, where his production of *Cymbeline* is a total joy. It treats the play with such love and understanding that you can only wonder at its mysteries and skills.

In a programme note, Lamos reminds us that Shakespeare's last plays, the romances, have been compared with Beethoven's last quartets and the ninth symphony. It is a brilliantly apt comparison. With the romances, and those almost arbitrary happy endings, so resembling in their passions both fervent and resolved, the Beethoven/Schiller ode to joy, provide Shakespeare with his most exquisite, if most elusive, theatrical form.

The story of the play is, on the surface, astonishingly complex. But Lamos has cut through the surface of a simple parable of love and reconciliation. Imogen, daughter of Cymbeline, is treacherously estranged from her husband Posthumus. The evil Iachimo wagers with Posthumus that he can seduce Imogen. Through a ruse, he offers Posthumus seemingly foolproof evidence of his success. Posthumus sends his servant Pisanio to kill Imogen for revenge. Pisanio, sensing her innocence, protects her, and sends her to exile. Eventually the truth emerges, and "pardon's the word for all."

The text is often regarded as corrupt, and many Shakespearean scholars have questioned its total reliability. On the other hand, no one doubts that it is Shakespeare's concept and pattern, and even lines once held in dispute, such as "Golden lads and lasses must, like chimney sweepsers, come to dust" are nowadays accepted as authentic. Lamos has envisaged the entire play as a fairy story—but a fairy story for adults of the most exquisite sensibility. He has trimmed it considerably, and stressed its mythic and poetic elements more than its simplistic, if complicated narrative. The result is a pure flight of fancy—I have never seen a Cymbeline like this before, a production that sees the play as a metaphor of divine justice.

Lamos is immeasurably helped by the setting and costumes by John Conklin, a brilliant abstraction suggesting a pastoral world, full of God's determination and promise. The cast is not perfect, but never for an instant less than adequate. Mary Lynne as Imogen is, indeed, a pure-hearted delight, one has seen, in the past, so many silly Imogens, here Miss Lynne gives us a portrayal full of noble regrets and steadfast loyalty.

Mark Capri makes the Machievellian Iachimo smoothly persuasive, and I enjoyed the blank-hearted heroism of J. T. Walsh as Posthumus. Steven Ryan's vile and villainous Cloten, and apart from Miss Lynne, best of all, William Wright's staunch-hearted Belarius. But the play's final success belongs to Lamos. He clearly has a surprising gift for making Shakespeare alive for our times, while never, for a moment, distorting his own image for his own times.

Bridge

All-time tops

This is the time of year when the weather forces sports writers to compose teams of players from different generations. With less excuse, I shall permit myself a similar indulgence.

It is more than 30 years since the European Bridge Championships were resumed after the World War Two. Taking as the criterion the player's ability as assessed at the height of his powers, who would be the 10 strongest players to represent Great Britain? With the caveat of the old penny slot machine, "for amusement only", here is my list:

1. J. T. Reese
2. M. Harrison Gray
3. J. Caninsin
4. A. Meredith
5. B. Schapiro
6. R. A. Priddy
7. C. Rodriguez
8. N. Gardener
9. R. Sheehan
10. K. Konstam

Few would dispute that Reese's unerring accuracy entitles him to be considered prime inter pares. Harrison Gray died in 1968, but even in his last years he still retained an extraordinary grasp of the game. This is a hand that he played some years ago.

Remarkably, Nico Gardener has not represented Great Britain since 1961, yet he still retains his flawless technique. Gardener is above all an elegant stylist. He would deplore the modern players who slam the cards on the table in order to underline their reputation for aggression. When he plays a card, he does so with the polite menace with which one imagines Mephistopheles might have presented his visiting card to Faust.

This hand illustrates his well-earned reputation for precision. Teams of four Game All Dealer East

Game All Dealer East

Game All Dealer East

Game All Dealer East

Game All Dealer East

Game All Dealer East

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CLEM ANDERSON WAS DECAPITATED.

THE BAXTERS AND THE HOGANS WERE BURN'T TO A CRISP.

DR PARSONS TOOK AN OVERDOSE OF LIQUID NICOTINE.

MR. AND MRS. ROBERTS WERE BITTEN BY NINE RATTLESNAKES.

ADDIE MASON DROWNED.

JUANITA QUINN DIED IN HER SLEEP.

Or was it murder?

Detective Jake Pepper was convinced none of these deaths was accidental. He was sure one man was responsible: Robert Hawley Quinn. But how could he prove it?

This series of bizarre and horrible deaths is now the subject of a major new Sunday Times serial. Written by Truman Capote, author of 'In Cold Blood', it tells of Detective Jake Pepper's attempt to bring Robert Hawley Quinn to justice.

Was Quinn guilty? Or was Pepper obsessed? How was the Blue River tied into the deaths? And what was the significance of the miniature handcarved coffins, each bearing the photograph of a victim?

'Handcarved Coffins'—a true account of murder in a small American town. Start reading it in The Sunday Times. Truman Capote's 'Handcarved Coffins'.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Jeremy Flint

Travel

Cuba, then and now

When General Fulgencio Batista, the Cuban dictator, fled from the fury of the revolution, he took with him all the island's tourists. He left behind him deserted beaches, hotels, nightclubs and casinos, many reputedly owned by the Mafia. Overnight the "whorehouse of America", as Cuba had become known, lost all its customers.

For a young reporter, the heady days which followed Castro's triumph were a bit like being on holiday. The island, suddenly emptied of tourists, quickly became an adventure playground for the swarms of newsmen who descended on it. The Ruritanian, with its colourful, bushy-bearded leader.

There were show trials, floodlit executions, hijackings and a furious war of words with the United States, just 90 miles away. American property (save for the home of Castro's boyhood hero Ernest Hemingway) was nationalized, while exiled Cuban pilots would sneak across from Florida and firebomb the island's precious sugar crop. But the holiday-makers, once Cuba's lifeblood, stayed away in droves.

In the evenings, when the day's cables had been sent, there were frozen rum daiquiris, mojitos and Cuba Libre to be lined up along the bar of the legendary Florida. If one were lucky, one might even glimpse Papa Hemingway himself there, propping the bar on which stood (and still does) his bust in bronze. Just occasionally, too, Fidel Castro or Che Guevara would be sighted at

one of Havana's numerous watering holes. Then came the Bay of Pigs invasion, and the honeymoon was suddenly over. Thousands of terrified Cubans, and a number of hapless foreigners, found themselves behind bars. My own hair-raising week on the island was spent in a secret police cell trying to convince an interrogator of the innocence of my comings and goings from New York. I was fortunate, eventually being freed. But when I left Havana airport I never expected to see the island again.

That was 20 years ago. Now, badly in need of foreign currency with which to elude his shrinking Soviet subsidies, Fidel Castro has launched a campaign to attract western tourists back to the island after its long years of isolation.

It was with some trepidation that I returned, with a small group of journalists, I recently flew into the same airport which I had left so precipitately in 1961. We had been expected to look the island over on behalf of would-be holidaymakers from Britain.

The hope, obviously, was that we would direct our attention to the island's tourist attractions, so long forgotten in the West. One could hardly be expected to avert one's eyes from the changes which wittingly or unwittingly, Castro has brought about in the lives of Cubans. And nothing, I found, had changed more than the Cubans themselves.

Where were those carefree, samba-loving islanders I remembered? Today the Cubans seem withdrawn, almost glum, by comparison. Perhaps this is the result of years of acute shortages of food, clothing and almost everything else which they have had to suffer. Or maybe it is just living in a police state does to one. For Ramiro Valdes, my interrogator of 20 years ago, is now Minister of the Interior, instilling, one gathers, as much foreboding into Cubans as he once did into me.

And where were all those crowds I remember strolling on the streets and in the squares? What had happened to those dark-eyed señoritas who once gazed so boldly into one's eyes as they passed in the street? I can only guess that they are now Ministers of the Interior, instilling, one gathers, as much foreboding into Cubans as he once did into me.

Set on 14 islands in Lake Malaren, the past and present contrast beautifully in the capital, Stockholm, while Gothenburg is the ideal gateway to some of the most beautiful west coast scenery. Weekends, weeks and longer in either city from £115 (budget class) and £155 (standard class) hotels.

On perhaps a relaxing air-rail tour visiting Gothenburg, Västerås in the glass country and Stockholm 8 days from £206. If, however, you prefer to plan your own itinerary, then one of the fly-dance holidays can be suitable, from only £200 including flights, car and hotel.

For more details of these and many other air holidays to Sweden in 1981 organised by Norwegian State Railways Travel Bureau, Scandinavia and Travel Time, using flights by SAS-Scandinavian Airlines and British Airways, send the coupon today (or ring 01-437 5816).

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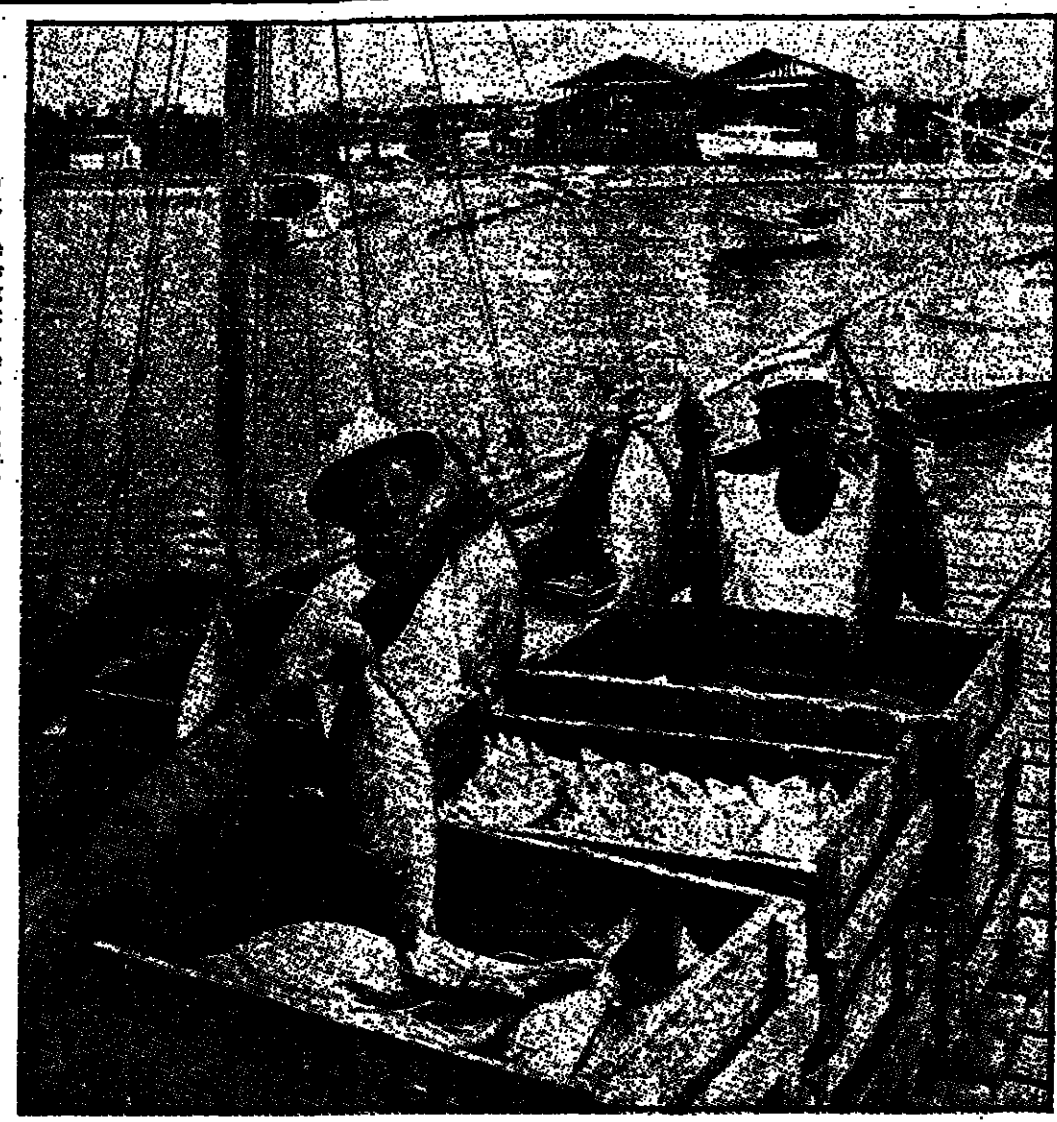
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Coming in with the catch in Cuba

but flying non-stop on the faster homeward run.

Food is plentiful, although on the whole unexciting. However, one is only too conscious that ordinary Cubans are faring much less well, with meat only twice a week, for one is eating a crystal colleague suggested that this was because so many fishermen had sailed away into exile.

Despite its run-down appearance, Havana itself has quite a lot to offer, with museums, galleries and a fine corniche looking out across the magnificent Caribbean towards America. The Florida, alas, is temporarily shut, but the equally famous Bodeguita del Medio, a charming Cuban-style bistro, is still open for business

at around £5 a head. This, too, was once a haunt of Hemingway and of the Cuban leaders in the early days of the revolution.

The starry-eyed radical or politically conscious visitor will not find it easy to get close to the revolution which the Cubans regard as their own affair. Indeed, it is virtually impossible to buy revolutionary posters or T-shirts. However, one's official Cuban guide will proudly point out the many new clinics, schools and hospitals which are among the real achievements of the July 26 revolution.

For Hemingway fans there is a treat in store in the small town of San Francisco de Paula. There stands his old home, where the Nobel Prize-winner lived for much of the last 20 years of his life. Today it has been turned into the Museo Hemingway, its living rooms carefully preserved just as they were the day he left the island for the last time in 1961, shortly

before his suicide. Through the windows - for you are not allowed in - you can see his library, his hunting rifles and many trophies, and the typewriter on which he hammered out his Cuban epic *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Yes, I believe that one ought to give Cuba a try. I might even return myself - if they will have me.

Individual return fares, London to Havana via Madrid, by Iberia or Air Cubana: Normal economy low season: £558, high season £529. Excursion (minimum 14 days): £492. In addition to Pegasus, Regent Holidays of Bristol offer packages in conjunction with an American tour operator, travelling via Miami, from £440 all in, for ten days, seven seas in Cuba.

Peter Hopkirk

Gardening
Hang it

Until recently I was never enamoured of hanging baskets or half-baskets for hanging on walls. We have always had too many other jobs to do to leave time for climbing steps to water them.

But now there are some neat pulley kits on the market which enable you to "anchor" the basket at any level, just by pulling the cord sideways, and we also have the "Roots" system which waters a dozen or more baskets at the turn of a tap.

So this year I have been studying with more interest the plants we could grow in baskets, not only outdoors but in garden rooms and porches and especially in the greenhouse.

It is in the greenhouse, sun lounge or garden room that I would like to begin. If it can be kept at a minimum night temperature of 45-50 deg F, probably the best plant of all is the fuchsia, provided you obtain some of the trailing varieties especially suitable for hanging baskets. New varieties appear all the time but among my favourites are "Swingtime", red and white, "Falling Stars", light and dark red, "Cascade", light and dark red, and "Golden Marinka", red flowers and golden foliage.

If there is a drawback to fuchsias indoors it is that they are the favourite diet of white fly and you have to keep up a constant battle with a suitable spray every 10-14 days to keep

this nasty pest under control. The pendulous, tuberous begonias are splendid plants for hanging baskets. They come with either double or semi-double flowers, pink, scarlet or orange. They cost about 35p each but I do not consider this dear because, like all tuberous begonias, you can cut the tubers into sections next year, provided there is a shoot to each section, and in a year or two build up quite a large stock.

Busy lizzies, varieties of impatiens and browallias, are also good plants for our purpose. Doilies offer a special collection of seeds of a red impatiens, the *Browallia* "Blue Troll" and a "White Troll" giving, if you wish to demonstrate your patriotism, a combination of red, white and blue. They will give of their best under cover but can be hung outdoors in a sheltered spot from mid-June to late August.

No hanging basket is complete without some trailing lobelia. There are several varieties, pale blue, deep blue with a white eye and a rosy red variety also with a white eye. We prefer the pale or dark blue varieties and have given a packet of each in recent years.

Seed of lobelia should be sown soon in a propagating case at a temperature of around 60 deg F as it grows slowly.

When the seedlings are large enough prick them off into boxes, peat pots or jiffy 74, three to five seedlings to a little bunch. They are too small to prick off individually and anyway three or four together make a decent sized plant more quickly. This trick of pricking off a tuft of several seedlings works well with some other plants, notably primulas.

It may be a bit extravagant if you have to buy the seeds, but if you save your own primula seeds, and most primulas produce seeds generously, there is no problem.

And we must not forget geraniums for hanging baskets. The ivy-leaved varieties are splendid for baskets. You will get pleasure all summer from the double pink flowered "Madame Crousse" and "L'Elegance", a white flowered variety with leaves that are edged with white and which turn rosy purple in autumn or if they are kept too dry.

Two years ago Hurst Seeds introduced their "Mickey Mouse" range of flower and vegetable seeds for children, featuring on the packet the popular Walt Disney cartoon characters. They proved so popular that the firm has now added five more vegetable varieties. One, containing swede seeds, shows besides normal swede roots one hollowed out for Halloween with a splendid witch and Donald Duck's twin giants.

Another shows Pluto holding a giant marrow. On the back are instructions for growing outsized marrows with sugar solution fed into the fruit from a jam jar by a length of wool. The idea of scratching your name on a small marrow and watching it grow is also described.

Roy Hay

Chess
All-weather player

Where and when is the best place and time to play chess? Your true aficionado would reply anywhere and I, being what the eighteenth century would have called somewhat disapprovingly "a chess enthusiast" (it meant in those days someone more than eccentric and only a little less than insane) have indeed played chess in almost every possible circumstance.

Chess is an ideal way of passing the time during long voyages. In 1939 when the chess olympiad was held in Buenos Aires, the Argentine Chess Federation chartered a Belgian boat that took the assembled European players from Argentina to Buenos Aires in a leisurely journey with many stops since the vessel was a cargo boat. As can be imagined, much chess was played and we had a lightning tournament whilst the boat was passing through the Bay of Biscay. We were allowed two seconds per move and had to move whenever a gong was beaten. In a semi-final of the competition I was faced by the Latvian master Apšpeneš who was noted at one of the world's best lightning chess players.

But the Latvian was not a good sailor whereas at that time I was. As the boat went up and down through the storm-tossed waves of the Bay of Biscay, my opponent took more and more time over his moves. The trouble was that if he took more than ten seconds for his move then I was left with less than ten to make my reply.

Time-keeper at this game was B. H. Wood, editor of Chess. Noting that Apšpeneš was exceeding the time-limit, he first of all warned him and then forfeited his game. When, later on in the voyage, we had another great lightning tournament while passing through the Santa Caterina bay waters which were as stormy as those of the Bay of Biscay, the Latvian master was not a participant.

Chess on a summer afternoon in the shade of a peach-tree, or in the middle of a winter storm, is a game of beautifully controlled ferocity. It was played at one of the strongest international tournaments at Vrbas in Yugoslavia where the British grandmaster was first, ahead of such distinguished players as Petrosian, Yusupov, Adorjan and Sax.

White: B. Ivanovic. Black: A. Miles. Sicilian Defence.

1 P-K4 P-Q4 2 N-K3 B-K2 3 P-Q4 P-Q4 4 N-K3 B-K2 5 P-Q4 P-Q4 6 N-K3 B-K2 7 P-Q4 P-Q4 8 N-K3 B-K2 9 P-Q4 P-Q4 10 N-K3 B-K2 11 P-Q4 P-Q4 12 N-K3 B-K2 13 P-Q4 P-Q4 14 N-K3 B-K2 15 P-Q4 P-Q4 16 N-K3 B-K2 17 P-Q4 P-Q4 18 N-K3 B-K2 19 P-Q4 P-Q4 20 N-K3 B-K2 21 P-Q4 P-Q4 22 N-K3 B-K2 23 P-Q4 P-Q4 24 N-K3 B-K2 25 P-Q4 P-Q4 26 N-K3 B-K2 27 P-Q4 P-Q4 28 N-K3 B-K2 29 P-Q4 P-Q4 30 N-K3 B-K2 31 P-Q4 P-Q4 32 N-K3 B-K2 33 P-Q4 P-Q4 34 N-K3 B-K2 35 P-Q4 P-Q4 36 N-K3 B-K2 37 P-Q4 P-Q4 38 N-K3 B-K2 39 P-Q4 P-Q4 40 N-K3 B-K2 41 P-Q4 P-Q4 42 N-K3 B-K2 43 P-Q4 P-Q4 44 N-K3 B-K2 45 P-Q4 P-Q4 46 N-K3 B-K2 47 P-Q4 P-Q4 48 N-K3 B-K2 49 P-Q4 P-Q4 50 N-K3 B-K2 51 P-Q4 P-Q4 52 N-K3 B-K2 53 P-Q4 P-Q4 54 N-K3 B-K2 55 P-Q4 P-Q4 56 N-K3 B-K2 57 P-Q4 P-Q4 58 N-K3 B-K2 59 P-Q4 P-Q4 60 N-K3 B-K2 61 P-Q4 P-Q4 62 N-K3 B-K2 63 P-Q4 P-Q4 64 N-K3 B-K2 65 P-Q4 P-Q4 66 N-K3 B-K2 67 P-Q4 P-Q4 68 N-K3 B-K2 69 P-Q4 P-Q4 70 N-K3 B-K2 71 P-Q4 P-Q4 72 N-K3 B-K2 73 P-Q4 P-Q4 74 N-K3 B-K2 75 P-Q4 P-Q4 76 N-K3 B-K2 77 P-Q4 P-Q4 78 N-K3 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Holidays and Hotels in Great Britain & Ireland

Wales

Anglwg Hall Country House Hotel

Llanwrda, Carmarthen, Wales
Tel. 0554 75122

Known as the most beautiful country house in Wales, Anglwg Hall has been the scene of many famous events. The hotel is situated in a beautiful park with a lake and a golf course. It is a perfect place for a relaxing holiday.

Stay on a farm

There is nothing more relaxing than staying on a farm. Enjoy the fresh air, the beautiful scenery, and the delicious food. There are many farms available for hire, each offering a unique experience.

North

YORKSHIRE DALES THE FALCON MANOR

Settles, N. Yorks
Tel. 01937 2357

A beautiful manor house in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. The hotel is surrounded by rolling hills and valleys, offering a peaceful and scenic location. It is a perfect place for a relaxing holiday.

WEXHAMPTON

Wexhampton welcomes you!

Wexhampton is probably the most unattractive town in the whole of the United Kingdom. Situated slightly north-east of nowhere in particular, the town was built at a time when British architecture was experiencing what is now generally accepted as being its lowest ebb. Wexhampton is a poor example of architecture in that period.

West Country

THE MARINERS HOTEL

Lyme Regis, Dorset
Tel. 01305 919

Devon border, best of both counties for delightful walks, gardens and houses of interest and relax in this 17th century setting with all the modern comforts in a convivial atmosphere. A place for those seeking the finest cuisine from local produce with an abundance of fish from our local fishermen. Enjoy exhibitions by contemporary artists. Bargain breaks 2 days from £32. Longer the stay the better the rate. Write/phone for brochure/tariff.

Poldhu Hotel

37 bedrooms with private bath and all colour television and coffee and tea making facilities. This newly renovated hotel stands in a magnificent location overlooking Poldhu Cove across Mount's Bay towards Land's End. The hotel has its own swimming pool, tennis court, games room and there is a challenging 18 hole golf course across the bay. Excellent seabathing from many sandy beaches, shopping in the quaint characterful villages and craft shops and sightseeing in the little fishing harbours and along this rugged coast. Ample parking for all your vehicles. Free car hire. Accommodation from £25.00 per night. Write/phone for brochure/tariff.

South Coast

THE OLD BLACK LION

Hay-on-Wye
Tel. 0497 82341

An old Welsh coaching inn with 8 comfortable bedrooms (6 with private shower and w.c.) and fine Welsh and mid-European cooking. Prices from £3.50 per person a day.

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East Anglia

WYASTONE HOTEL

Cheltenham
Tel. 02823 2222

We are a small, family-run hotel, famous for our cuisine and service. AA 4 stars. From January to May we offer mid-weeks at unbeatable prices. From Friday/Saturday 2 nights £30, 3 nights £45, 4 nights from a Sunday £70. 7 nights from a Sunday £120. All prices include breakfast, dinner, VAT and all at low prices so why not call a 1?

THE BELL HOTEL

Charlbury, Oxon
Tel. 0295 6422

Set in the beautiful Cotswolds, this hotel is a perfect place for a relaxing holiday. The hotel is surrounded by rolling hills and valleys, offering a peaceful and scenic location. It is a perfect place for a relaxing holiday.

Heart of England

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West Country

ATLANTIC HOTEL

AA RAC
Tel. 063 73 2244

Enjoy a relaxing holiday in the heart of the West Country. The hotel is surrounded by rolling hills and valleys, offering a peaceful and scenic location. It is a perfect place for a relaxing holiday.

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Fred Emery

Not a happy time for the Tories either

The only character missing from this week's incoherent political realignment was a Tory defector. Then, sure enough, up pops Mr Robert Hicks, Conservative MP for Bodmin, to venture, in effect, that 20 of his colleagues might be catching centre party fever.

Less a defection than an infection, it seems. None the less, as amplified by Central Office, in the rush to get out his resignation, is a good indication of how far the genie of the middle ground is now out of the political bottle. We should not be deceived by the understandable concentration on Labour's compulsive dramas: the Tories are unsettled, too.

Now, to clear one point away, not for a moment is it being advanced that Tory MPs will be found among the next batch of supporters for the Council for Social Democracy. But what is being expressed by Mr Hicks, and others less openly, is their concern that Mrs Thatcher's Government has already gone too far from the centre ground to get back in time.

In time, here, meaning, the next election. Were it not for Labour's convulsions, they say, the plight of the party government and the country would be coming under far greater scrutiny. Just look back at this past week. Ever rising unemployment, "appalling", is Mr James Prior's word. And it is a haemorrhage attributed by more and more Tories to the Government's stubborn refusal to cut interest rates further.

How much more of this can we take? The question has spread in dissident Tory circles, where there is talk of a cauldron of discontent. They

hope that the "wets" in Cabinet are going to have a crack at reversing policy before the Budget is immovably fixed.

Still other Conservatives, doubtless a majority, were hoping to impress the middle-ground voters with new policies. Thatcherism was going to be different. Yet here is Sir Keith Joseph handing out substantial subsidies to industry. Is this the "constructive intervention" of which the Prime Minister boasts? Last week, BL, possibly next week more billions for British Steel. Does the Government know where it's going?

Such Conservatives are worried, in fact, that the wets may already have won the policy argument. They listen—and hear the Thatcherite rhetoric although they note that there is not much mention now of monetary control. But they suspect that U-turns have been well under way since last autumn, when Mrs Thatcher and her Treasury ministers could not get their way on the full extent of public spending cuts.

The complaints are contradictory. But the unease from either Tory wing combines over the fact that the Government, nearing the end of its second year, has precious little evidence to offer that its policies are working. Inflation down, yes. But at what price? All that bold talk of booting out is set against the stark BL surveys. The fear is that business after the slide for restructuring, will then crumble again.

The Tory nightmare is that the appeal of a new force in politics, assuming it has by then fleshed out policies along the lines of Dr Owen's

In dissident Conservative circles there is talk of a cauldron of discontent

new book, might indeed turn out to be as "unstoppable" as Mr David Steel predicts. If that possibility loomed then Tories might make what they call personal changes—meaning dumping Mrs Thatcher. Fanciful stuff, but it was striking to encounter such talk in this week of Labour's travails.

The left, of course, may intend to do the same to Mr Foot. It was equally striking to hear, on the eve of the Wembley conference, left wingers expressing public shame at Mr Foot's attempts to compromise. How will they now react to his determination to reverse their precious conference decision?

More questions are indeed posed by this week's extraordinary sequence of events than there are answers. Why did the Gang of Four have to bring forth their mouse of a Council for Social Democracy? Could not public expectations of a

breakaway have been satisfied just as well with a statement that dispositions were being made for a new party.

Why does Mrs Williams not resign from the National Executive Committee the way Mr Rodgers resigned from the shadow cabinet? If Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn had not stymied himself with his own eagerness to impale his opponents on his loyalty pledge he could have gained far greater understanding for his legitimate challenge to Mrs Williams to say where she stood.

Her answer, as it stood last Wednesday, was that she had not absolutely made up her mind. Further, she has to consult the union that nominated her for election to the NEC.

How long that will take is unclear. But it can be taken as read that the "miracle" she spoke of to keep her in the party has not occurred. The party's MPs are not going to fight to recapture their sole right to elect their leader—and so she is definitely on her way out. Given that she has no other party position, when Mrs Williams leaves the NEC it will also mark her departure from the party.

Mr Benn also faces some questions. In accepting a seat in the shadow cabinet how can he agree to work collectively with colleagues, some of whom he publicly and bitterly denounced at a pre-conference rally? "Enemies of parliamentary democracy" was his term for those who, voted for the European Community, who built nuclear weapons without telling the party, and who favoured the House of Lords.



The bear from which Ernest Shepard made his original illustration

Pooh, the most English teddy bear

It was customary for the Epilogue of the annual Latin play performed by the scholars of Westminster School to comment on current events. In 1897, the gold rush to the Yukon provided a target. "A gentleman gone to Klondyke" entered and is greeted as a polar bear: "Quis hic nunc adventus ursus polaris?" The gold rush polar bear was played by F. T. Barrington-Ward whose younger brother, also a scholar, became editor of *The Times*. In the audience each night or helping behind the scenes was another scholar, the 15-year-old A. Milne, whose own distinctive version of the polar bear struck it rich on a scale that most gold prospectors could only experience in their dreams.

Winnie was Christopher Robin's favourite polar bear at the London Zoo. Pooh was his toy swan. When his teddy bear, Edward, asked for a new and exciting name the solution was obvious. Winnie-the-Pooh has never looked back. His creator died 25 years ago today but Pooh is very much alive. His English publisher, Methuen, his literary agent, Curtis Brown, and his American publisher, Dutton, have marketed the golden bear with great energy and skill.

In the 1970s the British edition alone sold half a million copies annually. But it is one of the fascinations of Milne's stories that this most English of teddy bears—bought at Harrods and brought up in Chelsea—has a world-wide appeal. The Pooh books were an immediate success in the United States and have been translated into 23 languages including such improbable vehicles for teddy bear worship as Afrikaans, Japanese and Serbo-Croat.

The marketing is now a complex operation. There seems to be no end to the possibilities of Pooh spin-offs. Pooh cook books, Pooh birthday books, Pooh party books, even Pooh get well books. There are Pooh calendars to chart the year and Pooh eggs for Easter. No nursery is complete without a Pooh frieze, "a must for every child's bedroom wall". When the motion picture rights were sold to Walt Disney, the films were accompanied by what is called character merchandizing, which to purists may have seemed like character assassination, but which to the beneficiaries looked like good business.

The secret of Pooh's appeal is intriguing. He is not a universal bear. With the exception of Japanese and Hebrew the modern languages into which he has been translated are those of countries—including the Soviet Union—whose history and culture have been shaped by Christianity. Pooh has failed to penetrate the Hindu and Moslem world. Is there an Arabic word for whimsical? But it appears to be relative affluence rather than religion that the Pooh countries have in common. They are countries where in-

fant mortality is a thing of the past and where the development of the idea of childhood as a separate, defined stage of life associated with innocence and happiness created the conditions for the successful invasion of Pooh and his friends.

If that is right, then Pooh has many other conquests in store as more and more countries are able to afford the luxury of childhood. On the other hand the very affluence that created childhood may in time destroy it: television in particular is reducing the period of childhood and there are other forces, too, that operate on children like factory farming techniques, forcing them through the Pooh years so fast that the innocent world of the Hundred Acre wood may soon be squeezed out altogether.

Pooh's survival qualities are however remarkable. They include the expertise of Milne's writing and the brilliant simplicity of Ernest Shepard's illustrations. It is often forgotten that Milne was a journalist who had edited *Granta* at Cambridge and worked for eight years on *Punch*. The light touch and unforced humour are the marks of a professional, as is the absence of any message.

It is the besetting sin of writers of children's books that they feel they must have something to say as though simply writing for children was beneath their dignity. Milne never fell into that trap. But he almost made the mistake of rejecting Shepard as an illustrator. "What on earth do you see in that man?" he asked E. V. Lucas, the chairman of Methuen. "He's perfectly hopeless." Milne was wrong as he later acknowledged. The author from Westminster and the artist from St Paul's complemented each other so perfectly that it is unthinkable that Pooh should appear in any other manifestation. Not even Lewis Carroll and John Tenniel were so dependent on one another. Together they created an ideal world, a cosy predictable of radishes, springing not fall and where if Pooh can get his paws on it—there is always honey still for tea.

The original Pooh, up-market Harrodsian bear, now lives in New York. He sits in a brightly lit glass case in the reception room of his American publishers and is an object of pilgrimage for children from all over the United States. He comes back to England from time to time, travelling by British Airways and using the VIP lounge in Kennedy and Heathrow airports. He is a celebrity. There is every hope that he will continue to be. His latest translation has been, appropriately, into Latin. Quis hic nunc adventus ursus polaris? Well, not exactly. Winnie-the-Pooh is Edwardus Ursus and his gold rush goes on and on.

John Rae
The author is Head Master of Westminster School.

Sportview

The hunter chase controversy rages on

The hunter-chase season opens on February 2, with a controversy which reached a climax on the last day of May, 1980, and still rages fiercely.

At Stratford on that day Barry Brazier's Rolls Rambler, professionally trained by Fred Winter, won the Horse and Hound Cup, having already run away with hunt racing's two other most coveted prizes, the Hail Whisky Hunters' Steeplechase at Liverpool and the Christies Foxhunters' Challenge Cup at Cheltenham.

Rolls Rambler, which had won hurdle races and steeplechases when trained by Arthur Stephenson, missed the 1979 season, but had also taken the Horse and Hound Cup in 1978, though only by a neck from the little Welsh hunter Devil's Walk. Winter's stable also houses Remigio, unbeaten in six hunter-chases in 1979 and winner of two more in 1980, and Mr Brazier's other hunter-chaser, Shannon Bridge, which won all four of his races last season and could well turn out to be as good as, if not better than, Rolls Rambler.

This season it seems that more licensed trainers than ever before have in their yards horses which have been qualified for these events, though it should not be forgotten that three of the best hunter-chasers of the post-war years, Merryman II, Baulking Green and Credit Call, were all professionally trained.

A licensed trainer has staff and resources denied to a private owner which can improve a horse out of all recognition.

Jim Mahon, chairman of the Point-to-Point Owners' Association, showed me letters from his members complaining bitterly that hunter-chasing had become "a farce" and that their hunters were being asked to take on professionally trained animals which, if the race were a handicap, would have to concede them three stones. "Surely this was never intended," wrote one owner.

The association has proposed that: (1) for a trial period one third of all hunter-chases should exclude horses trained by fully licensed trainers, unless such horses be their sole property; (2) the prestige races at Cheltenham and Liverpool should exclude winners under National Hunt rules, other than hunter-chases; (3) Clerks of courses should be encouraged to stage more novice-chases, so as to give maidens the start of the current season more experience before taking on the top horses.

Mr Mahon said that the clerks of the course at two race courses where the same firm is sponsoring a hunter-chase have framed conditions whereby these races should be restricted to horses which have not won a steeplechase, except one confined to certified hunters, but have run in a point-to-point since 1979.

Mr Mahon believes that a professional trainer can improve a horse by at least a stone. This view is strongly contested by Mr Brazier, his amateur jockey, Oliver Sherwood, and by Winter, who all feel that the debate so far has been extremely one-sided and that their

arguments have never been publicly expounded.

Mr Brazier pointed out that potential hunter-chasers have to "go hunting" between November and February and that they are not allowed to enter a licensed trainer's stable until January, by which time most of the work of getting them fit for racing has already been done.

Not is it only in the preparation of their horses that private owners have excelled. The form book shows that permit holders have also done well against the professionals on the racecourse, even when competing for the most valuable National Hunt prizes. For instance, Royal Toss ran second in the Cheltenham Gold Cup when owned and trained by Tim Handel, and Mr R. Tweedie's great foxhunter, Freddie, twice finished second in the Grand National.

Mr Mahon, however, still maintains that a licensed trainer has staff and resources denied to a private owner which can improve a horse out of all recognition. "He knows when to gallop the horse and, even more important, when not to. He knows exactly how to feed him. If the horse has problems jumping regulation fences, nothing to stop the trainer putting up his retained professional jockey to school him over the practice fences and straighten him out."

Mr Brazier said he would rather win one of the top hunter-chases than even the Gold Cup. Every time one of his horses runs in a hunter-chase he meets a host of friends in the paddock before the race and over a drink afterwards. This would not apply to other National Hunt races.

He cannot see what difference it would make if he had his horses trained in a livery stable, many of which are run on highly professional lines and may house as many as 20 or more horses qualified for hunt racing. He would still be paying a monthly charge, though not quite such a large one to a livery stable. "The only difference would be that my horses would then be eligible to run in point-to-points," he added. "What an outcry there would be if Rolls Rambler or Shannon Bridge turned out for the open race at the Bicester Hunt point-to-point."

Mr Brazier noted that the former-steeplechaser, Nostradamus, who finished six lengths in front of Shannon Bridge when they were second and third in a handicap steeplechase at Kempton in March 1979, is to be trained for hunt racing by his owner John Sumner. A Steward of the Jockey Club, by Mr Sumner's son-in-law Ian McKie. Nostradamus will thus be qualified to run in point-to-points as well as hunter-chases. McKie shared the point-to-point leading rider title with David Turner last year. There will be no lack of expertise in his stable, in which there are at least eight horses qualified for hunt racing.

Oddly enough, the point-to-point owners' association, generally regarded as the champion of the amateur and the private owner, has itself been accused of professionalism. The standards of most sports, amateur and professional, are constantly rising, and hunt racing is no exception. Sponsorship, regional contests and prizes for the best turned-out horses have all played their part in raising standards, but dedication, hard work and determination to succeed have sometimes been misconstrued as professionalism.

Ian Reid



Al Jolson and May McAvoy in the original version of *The Jazz Singer*.

How Jolson nearly missed out

Whatever the public reaction to the new version of *The Jazz Singer* may be it cannot possibly have the impact of the original made 54 years ago. The new film is better photographed and is undoubtedly superior to an earlier remake, starring Danny Thomas, in 1953.

Nobody would dare suggest that Warner Oland, who played the stern synagogue cantor in the 1927 film (and went on to international fame as Charlie Chan), was a better actor than Sir Laurence Olivier, who has the role today. And, singing apart, Neil Diamond's acting foray into the title role of the man who chooses the stage instead of following his father into the synagogue is better than that of Al Jolson. But nothing will change the fact that it will always be Jolson who will be synonymous with the part, and that it will always be the 1927 film that will feature in the history books.

It is not true, as many believe, that this was the world's first sound picture. But it was the picture which, single-handed, killed the silent film industry stone dead.

Without Jolson's magnetic singing of "Mammy" and a number of other tear-jerkers it might have been a mere technical curiosity which for another generation or more no one would have bothered to follow up.

Apart from the musical numbers, the film was going to be like any other—silent and with subtitles. Nobody thought there was any point in making it anything else—except Jolson.

He was before the cameras, ready to go into one of his best-known songs, "Toot Toot Tootsie" with the recording apparatus switched on. But Jolson could never be confined to anything that anyone else had suggested.

He never began a song simply with a verse following musical introduction; never satisfied himself with a chorus exactly the way the lyricist had wrote it; never, in fact, sang the same song the same way from one performance to the next.

This time, after the pick-up had begun recording the disc (the film went into the cinemas with sound on synchronized 17in discs revolving at 33).

revelations (per minute) Jolson turned to the orchestra leader, Lou Silvers, and said: "Wait a minute, wait a minute. You ain't heard nothin' yet. You wanna hear 'Toot Toot Tootsie'?" All right, hold on. Lou, listen, you play 'Toot Tootsie'. Three choruses, you understand, and in the third chorus I whistle. Now give it to 'em hard and heavy. Go right ahead."

They were the first words spoken in talking pictures and Sam Warner, head of Warner Brothers (who was to die of a heart attack the day after the film's premiere), was present enough to realize the likely effect. He immediately ordered a new scene to be written for Jolson and his aged mother (played by Eugene Bessinger) and the rest, as they say, was history.

Jolson was not the original choice for the role. Warners, who had been experimenting with short musical features for years, wanted George Jessel to repeat the part he was currently playing successfully on Broadway.

But Jessel wanted more

money than the studio said it could afford. Warners were on the verge of bankruptcy and had decided to make *The Jazz Singer* as a "talkie" merely as a last resort. Jessel saw no reason to put his career at stake just because Warners were in trouble. He also expected the studio to make a better offer and went off to play golf on the day that Jolson, his then close friend, was secretly negotiating.

"No wonder," Jessel told me once, "Jolson signed behind my back." Jolson in fact made the first deal giving a performer a share of a film's profits; had he never done another thing he could have lived off the proceeds of *The Jazz Singer* for the rest of his life.

Jolson died in 1950 after a comeback with two biographical films for which he recorded the soundtrack. *The Jolson Story* and *Jolson Sings Again*. But it was *The Jazz Singer* that made him part of history.

Michael Freedland

Letter from Delhi

Not for Gandhi, this parade

Curiously enough, all the pagentry and oompah of Republic Day parade, bobbing vermilion lancers, deadly glittering Gurkhas, Sikhs with marching bands and missiles with pleasing nursery colour warheads, reminded Indians that they still have to make up their minds about the old peacemaker, Gandhi.

He, of course, would have hated this display of martial might, and that is one reason why there is no statue of him at the end of Rajpath, Delhi's broad main boulevard, drawn for ceremonial and effect with a sweep of Edwin Lutyens' hand.

Just beyond India Gate, a pink Arc de Triomphe, there is an elegant stone pavilion topped by a dome. George V stood in it until 15 years ago, but he was extracted by the authorities after some affronted patriots chipped his nose.

It was always thought that the cavity would be filled by a statue of Gandhi. But, apart from anything else, many of the Mahatma's followers feel that a statue of him cannot occupy the cupola because the annual Republic Day parade would pass beneath his sightless, steel-rimmed gaze, a ludicrous and painful contradiction, an insult to Gandhi's memory.

Gandhi did not even like the Indian flag. He wanted it to carry his spinning wheel symbol of peaceful struggle. But he was overruled and the tricolour was superimposed with the 24 spoke wheel of the Emperor Ashoka, a symbol of authority and power. Gandhi said he would never salute it.

Such views made him seem cranky and anachronistic, an embarrassment to assertive younger people. Some 33 years after his assassination he is all but unknown among the mass of young Indians. Gandhism, which fuelled a great movement, is not much more than a totem. Many Indians still do not know how to cope with his memory, which is one reason why Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*, now being filmed, is so controversial: it pricks the Indian conscience.

Republic Day is an occasion for such thoughts. It is a calendar turning point and the newspapers like to run melodramatic articles about the state of the republic. This year the breakfast reading matched the morning's obsidian skies.

As the sky brightened, Delhi turned out in force, driving fast and badly as usual, to see the kind of parade that elsewhere would suit a coronation.

The parade started with proper dash. Trotting cavalrymen offered jingling salute to the President of the Republic, who seemed rather gnomish on a plush throne too large for him, and they were followed by perfectly matched contingents of marching Madras Grenadiers, Rajputs, Sikhs, Assamese and Dogras, in scarlet, marigold and grey cock-comb headgear.

Inevitable military machismo followed, a tedious series of tanks, armoured personnel carriers, missiles and rocket launchers, intruding like unwelcome guests. Tanks and personnel carriers are very low

on style and splendour. The sullen ranks growled along, filling the air with filthy fumes, and dipped their guns in salute to the guests of honour, the President of Mexico, who was here, as a considerable oil producer, to talk about India's oil shortage.

After the somewhat indecent exposure of the might of the world's third largest army, the bands, bagpipes and elephants restored the pagentry, aided by more clockwork marching, carnival floats and dances by lithe jewelled girls in brilliant costumes.

The crowd was warned not to eat during the parade in case food attracted kites which might endanger jets flying low during the flypast. Kites are so daring they snatch the snacks from the laps of sunbathing air hostesses at Delhi hotels, and the parade authorities did not want a chapatti to be responsible for bringing down a MIG.

The bagpipes at last sighed to a stop and the elephants waddled off and the multitude ebbed away. But it was washing



Elephants on parade in Delhi.

back again today, like the tide. It is 33 years to the day since Gandhi was borne down Rajpath to his cremation, mourned by a vast press of people, and Richard Attenborough is re-creating the spectacle for his risk film with a crowd of three quarters of a million, seven and half Wembleys.

Trevor Fishlock



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VOICES OF THE ALLIANCE

The Reagan Administration has opened with a verbal barrage against the Soviet Union. The rhetoric of the presidential campaign rang through the first press conferences given in office by the President and his Secretary of State. They accused the Soviet leadership of consciously fostering international terrorism, of promoting world revolution, of reserving the right to commit any crime, to lie, to cheat, in furtherance of their cause. So far, Mr Reagan added, détente has been a one-way street that the Soviet Union has used to pursue its own aims. The scales which fell from Mr Carter's eyes only after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan do not occlude the new President's public vision. He wants the world to know that there is now a tough guy in the White House.

On the same night Mrs Thatcher was speaking at the Pilgrims' dinner in London, one of the main annual celebrations of the Anglo-American bond. What she said, in more moderate language, agreed with Mr Reagan's assessment of the dangers of Soviet expansionism, although she based herself not on the attribution of malevolent intentions but on the fact of the growth of Soviet military power in both intensity and range. Mr Reagan she said had understood the challenge: we in Europe must also show that we understand it.

Mrs Thatcher made a most welcome reaffirmation of the fundamental importance of the Atlantic partnership for the security, liberty and prosperity of the free world. And she said two related things that need saying: that Europe's interest in the confidence and strength of the United States is such that setbacks for them are setbacks for us. When the Americans face difficulties we need to say more clearly "We are with you"; and that cooperation

between the European powers and the United States in relation to matters outside Europe ought to be developed.

As a good Europeanist and a good Atlanticist Mrs Thatcher naturally denied any incompatibility between those two virtues. A stronger, more self-confident EEC pursuing more coherent policies, far from threatening Atlantic links, would reinforce them—the two pillars doctrine in its purest form. That is an entirely possible consequence of greater European integration; it is certainly a desirable consequence; but it is not a necessary consequence. All depends on what the policies are on which the European states unite, and whether they are the same policies as commend themselves to the United States.

This immediate post-inauguration period in Euro-American relations illustrates the point. Two days before Mr Reagan's description of détente as a one-way street President Giscard d'Estaing was musing on the television before his electorate. Some said détente was a fraud, though he would not go so far as that. "The word we should have in mind is the stabilisation of East-West relations." And stabilisation must go hand-in-hand with restraint on both sides—restraint such as the French had shown over Poland, such as the Polish workers should show by not trying to cast off from the Russo-socialist system, and such as (amazing claim) the Russians had shown towards post-invasion Afghanistan as a result of President Giscard's meeting with Mr Brezhnev in Warsaw.

Yesterday in the Bundestag Chancellor Schmidt was able to give a general welcome to the Reagan Administration's first foreign policy statements, but only by alluding to positive propositions contained in them and ignoring the rest. He made it clear that he would continue to argue the case for preserving

East-West détente. "We shall certainly stress the aspect of cooperation with the states of eastern Europe," including cooperation in the field of arms control.

These various statements by leaders of the Atlantic alliance have not reached the stage of contradiction, but they come in noticeably different tones of voice. Only Mrs Thatcher approximates on occasions to the tones of Reaganism, while Mr Reagan is not yet speaking the language of the alliance.

Both the French and the German Governments are in a mood to be stiffer towards the Soviet Union than they were in the aftermath of Afghanistan, but neither wishes to be party to a naked drive for military superiority or to see the reciprocal benefits of détente cast aside. The facts of geography alone give the continental European powers a perception of the Soviet block, the nature of the threat it poses and the means of dealing with it, which differs from that which is natural to continental America. Mr Reagan may give the alliance muscle but he will not give it the leadership it stands so much in need of unless he is responsive to those differences.

There is an immediate matter which may test the coherence of the alliance. The escalating demands of the free trade unions in Poland threaten the basis of the socialist state system. As the possibility of a stable compromise between party and workers diminishes, the possibility of suppression with the aid of Soviet forces enlarges. In that case no steady and coherent response by the Atlantic allies could be forged in the fire of Mr Reagan's campaign rhetoric. Mrs Thatcher on Thursday and Herr Schmidt yesterday spoke of the alliance's need for internal coordination of policy and decision. That should be the first priority on both sides of the Atlantic.

NOT WITHOUT CONSENT

According to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament, faced with a request from the Canadian Government to enact a new constitution for Canada and terminate Britain's guardianship over it, has but two options. It can either enact it exactly as presented by Ottawa and ignore any objections from any other Canadian Governments or authorities, or it can reject it totally if politely as a request not made in the proper form. The committee firmly rejects any idea of Westminster amending it before "parliamentarizing" it, on the grounds that such action would be interference in the affairs of Canada which would be constitutionally improper in terms of the conventions ruling the relationship between Westminster and "Canada as a federally structured whole".

The reasons given by the committee for ruling out this third alternative should be studied by any MP speaking on the Bill in Westminster. Westminster cannot legislate for Canada, and as the committee shows "a partial package is a new package". Those who talk in terms of sending back Canada's constitution without the proposed bill of rights, or of repatriating the British North America Acts as they now stand on the British statute book must think again. To do any such thing would be a gross breach of the constitutional conventions ruling the relations between Britain and Canada, and a dereliction of the actual responsibilities undertaken by Britain at the joint and unanimous request of the Federal and Provincial Governments of Canada at the time of the passage of the Statute of Westminster.

The committee has wisely stuck to the definition of what

those exact responsibilities are. No doubt there will be controversy over its findings based on an examination of the precedents going back to confederation in 1867. It comes down against the view that Westminster is a mere automaton vis-à-vis a request to amend the BNA Act from Ottawa. The very anxieties repeatedly expressed by Britain over the continuance of its residual but onerous and increasingly anomalous responsibilities under the Statute of Westminster indicate that Parliament was never intended by Canada itself to be a rubber stamp. The committee endorses Professor Keith's view that Westminster can only amend the BNA Act "in accordance with the wishes of the people of the dominion as a whole, not at either federal or provincial bidding".

This conclusion will delight the six—indeed probably eight—provinces who object to Mr Trudeau's proposals. For it argues that the British Parliament has to address itself primarily to the question whether the request from the Canadian Government is a proper request which can be acted upon, or an improper one which cannot. The committee's arguments lead rather fatefully to the conclusion that the sort of proposals now envisaged, and opposed by so many provinces, could not form the subject of a proper request. If the committee's arguments are accepted, it could not have been right, for example, for Mrs Thatcher to promise Mr Trudeau to get the legislation through the British Parliament—at least not without warning him that a proper measure of provincial agreement was essential to the decision.

The committee suggests that Britain, in assessing what is proper, is entitled to require

that the same degree of provincial agreement to Mr Trudeau's proposals must be secured as is required in those proposals for any future amendments to a new Canadian constitution in Canada. If Mr Trudeau has now only the backing of Mr Davis in Ontario and Mr Hatfield in New Brunswick, it is plain that this requirement is not fulfilled.

The committee also thinks that the objections to the proposed bill lodged in the Manitoba and other appeal courts cannot be ignored by Westminster—in short that Britain itself is not sovereign to make at Ottawa's behest a totally new law for Canada which Canadian courts can thereafter only interpret and not contest.

Select committees are not courts of appeal. The report of the Canadian parliamentary committee on the Bill is still awaited, and at the third reading which follows the propriety of the Canadian Government's request, as well as Britain's reciprocal obligation to sift its propriety, will certainly be examined in the light of the British committee's report. Mr Trudeau may not modify his plans because a British body criticizes his approach. But he may respond to growing pressure in Canada. Not only has he the full support of only two provinces, but Canadian public opinion, as it has become informed, has swung against patriation in the form so many provinces oppose. Mr Trudeau is seen as trying unilaterally to force his will on Canada by invoking a captive sovereignty at Westminster. Such a sovereignty is dubious and if he persists in the wrecking amendments which the provinces may sponsor in the British Houses of Parliament may drag Britain disastrously into Canada's internal affairs.

DOWNFALL OF SEÑOR SUÁREZ

The resignation of Señor Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, is at once a test for Spanish democracy and a reminder of how far the country has come in the five years or so since the death of General Franco. The resignation of a Prime Minister after criticism from within his own party is, after all, nothing very unusual in a democracy. There have already been moves within the government party, the Democratic Centre Union (UCD), to nominate Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo as Señor Suárez's successor; and though there are still a number of hurdles to be overcome, there is every indication that normal democratic processes are being followed. What is remarkable is not that Señor Suárez should have felt compelled to resign, but that he should be doing so in a political climate which is so different from those of the long years under Franco.

Whatever his failings in the last year or two, much of the credit for this smooth transition to democracy must go to Señor Suárez—as well as to King Juan Carlos, who first appointed him Prime Minister in 1976. At the time the selection of Señor Suárez, a former head of the Movimiento, the only political organization permitted by Franco, seemed extraordinarily

unpromising. But he proved to have a commitment to democracy and, backed by the King, reduced the political role of the armed forces, called genuine elections, and introduced a democratic constitution. The process is still not quite complete, as is shown by the persecution of journalists under archaic legislation. But Spain today has reentered the mainstream of European life and that is something that would have seemed barely conceivable five years ago.

The country also has its difficulties, and they have been the downfall of Señor Suárez. The problem of relations between Madrid and the regions, one that has exercised Spanish governments for many years, is exemplified by the continuation of Basque terrorism. Spanish society is deeply divided by issues such as divorce. The economy has been hit harder than most by the rise in oil prices and the world recession, with the result that there are now about one and a half million people unemployed, or about 12 per cent of the workforce. Some of these difficulties are the direct result of the policies of the Franco regime—Basque terrorism, for instance. But on the right, in particular, there is a tendency to look back nostalgically to the days of the dictator-

ship, when there was less discipline—and when the international economic climate was an easier one.

Señor Suárez's strength lay in his ability to conciliate widely different interests. He succeeded, for instance, in putting together the UCD out of a very varied collection of Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, liberals, monarchists and others. By giving something to one group, and then something else to another, he was able to hold them together. But this was often done at the expense of consistent policies—on regional devolution for instance, where he suddenly reversed government policy on granting autonomy to Andalusia and then was forced to return to something like the original policy.

He has had to resign because of dissatisfaction on the right wing of his party with his policies but also, a more important reason, because he looked likely to lose the next election. It is possible that some of the military were not unhappy to see him go; but the main pressure came from within his own party, for understandable electoral reasons. The important thing is that his successor should be able to build on what Señor Suárez began, and that his achievement in bringing democracy to Spain should not be undone.

Is the hostages deal binding?

From Mr Alec Kassman
Sir, Professor Brittain's assertion, (January 29) that "It is a principle of international law that agreements extracted under duress are void" is wrong, and dangerously wrong.

International law does, and must, recognize the existence of force as an element in international relations; otherwise there could be no international law of war, and any such principle as that advanced by Professor Brittain would render null and void all treaties of peace except those terminating wars ending in a draw. But treaties of peace between victors and vanquished have been written out, throughout the era of recorded history, certainly since the period described by Herodotus and probably much longer. They cannot all have been null and void. I think the legal position is as follows.

The initial forcible invasion of the American Embassy in Tehran and the capture of the American citizens in it was a hostile act which the United States could rightly have treated as a *casus belli*, but they did not. The continued detention of the American captives was a continuing hostile act, which rendered lawful the American invasion of Iranian territory last spring in an attempt to secure their release.

Following the American withdrawal from that attempt the United States were entitled to reply to the Iranian hostility by either friendly means, for example negotiation, or aggressive means, say, delivery of an ultimatum. They opted for the former course, and negotiations were successfully conducted. The terms so reached are perfectly lawful and cannot now be declared void merely on the ground that the United States were not obliged to accept the face of force. The fact is that they did.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ALEX KASSMAN,
31 West Heath Drive, NW11,
January 29.

Computer security

From Mr P. J. Godfrey
Sir, As someone closely involved with computer systems, I am always amused to read reports such as yours of January 29 ("Vision of computer-enslaved world") concerning computer security. I would like to raise two points.

First, magnetic bands do not exist. Bands magnetic tape is the French for magnetic tape. If your Correspondent had listened himself to Mr Parker, who speaks passable English for an American, he would have known this. Secondly, a little healthy cynicism is called for when reviewing facts presented by someone who makes his living from computer crime (albeit talking about it rather than taking part). If there is any bank in the world which could be out of business by having one computer centre and all the tapes therein destroyed I would be surprised. Any computer installation of any size at all protects itself against such simple disasters.

There should not be under-estimated, but data processing professionals spend a lot of time ensuring their systems are adequately protected. Yours faithfully,
PETER J. GODFREY,
Avenue des Arts 53,
1040 Brussels, Belgium,
January 29.

Trees for energy

From Mr John Hunter
Sir, I am surprised that Dr Thomas (January 29) considers that you cannot grow timber trees in a hedgerow which remains good and stockproof as this was the traditional practice in many parts of England and I have seen it depicted in Flemish miniatures c 1600. The trees in the hedges were widely enough to enable light to reach both the hedge and the crops. Trimming off overhanging boughs from the reach of combine harvesters also helps.

In this arable part of the kingdom, where few hedges need to be stockproof, it is good and economic practice to coppice them every 10-12 years or so. This involves cutting right down to the base, whence the hedge springs up rapidly, bushy and invigorant, in the heart of wild-life, game and the landscape. When coppicing is done, good stems of oak, ash and maple can be left to grow up to form the hedgerow trees of the future.

From observation this winter more and more farmers are following this practice, mindful perhaps of a future fuel source for their wood-burning stoves when dead elms have all been cut down; mind also, I suspect, of the appearance of the countryside.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUNTER,
Green Farm,
Little Sampford,
Saffron Walden, Essex,
January 27.

Stained reputation

From Mr Geoffrey Roome
Sir, The Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral (January 19) refers to seventeenth-century libels in altarpieces.

Zoffany continued the tradition a hundred years later. He painted a "Last Supper" for the new St John's Church in Calcutta, and the Iscariot scowling at the congregation was widely held to portray a nabob of the time.

On his return to England he painted an altarpiece for Kew, again almost certainly portraying a local worthy in the guise of Iscariot: it was rejected, and came to roost at St George's Church, Brentford. For Chiswick Zoffany painted an altarpiece that included a boy pointing to the Seventh Commandment. "Thou shalt not commit adultery," Edwardian consciences in Chiswick consigned this bland prompting to Christie's.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ROOME,
East Hall,
Boughton Moor, Chesham,
Maidstone, Kent.

Safeguarding historic buildings

From Dr A. J. Taylor, FBA.

Sir, Mr Cook's account (January 24) of the Secretary of State for the Environment's callous disregard of his Inspector's recommendation in favour of preserving Kelsall Lodge, Leamington Spa, is unfortunately symptomatic of an even more disturbing situation.

Mr Heseltine is also directly responsible under the Ancient Monuments Act for the care, maintenance and display to the public of many of the outstanding treasures of this country's architectural heritage. Yet how is that responsibility being discharged today? The answer can be given under three heads, viz:

1. Closures. To take only a few examples, portions of the disfigurement of Furness Abbey and St Augustine's, Canterbury, or of the castles of Northampton and Warkworth and Castle Rising, are at present closed to the public for left unguarded, ostensibly for the sake of the custodians, whose posts, once they have been vacated through death or retirement, are left unfilled. This is because monument custodians rank as civil servants, and there is accordingly a total freeze on their recruitment; yet against a background of over two million unemployed the number of men needed is despicable. Meanwhile the period garden at Kirby Hall has become a waste, the church and cloister of Bayham Abbey a wilderness.

2. Running down of accumulated experience. The vitality of the department's small direct labour force, whose specialist skills and devoted craftsmanship have been gradually built up over the last half-century, is being deliberately destroyed by the misapplication of policy to restrict the use of direct labour on monuments in national care to the minimum. Together with the application of similar attitudes and policies to the much smaller parallel professional and supervisory staff, this means that the directly employed monuments service as a whole can no longer be said to be in good heart. Yet fundamentally it is this well-integrated accumulation of skill and "feel" for the work, both at industrial and professional level, that has won for Britain a reputation second to none in the field of monument conservation and presentation, and

in time gone, by caused our own National Trust to place a number of the ruined monuments in its ownership under the guardianship of the Ministry of Works.

As has been authoritatively pointed out elsewhere, such a discarding of experience presages grievous losses and misjudgments and puts the future of our historic monuments in jeopardy. 3. Abandonment of trust. It is well known that the Department of the Environment is seeking to divest itself of certain prime monuments. One, the matchless ruin of Fontenay Abbey, together with its related outfalls and superb eighteenth-century landscaped setting, has no near competitor amongst Cistercian remains even in a European context. Another, the site of the Battle of Hastings, and within it, extensive portions of the abbey founded by the Conqueror on the very ground where his victory was clinched, lies as near to the heart of English national history as any monument well could.

At different dates in the by no means distant past both these famous places have come into national care (Battle indeed purchased by the Government with generous American help), to be held in perpetuity, by the nation for the nation, under the provisions of the relevant Acts of Parliament. Not surprisingly, and truly has been expressed that there is something less than respectable in proposing or even considering the transfer of such exceptionally noteworthy monuments to other, and less experienced, hands.

Nor will it escape notice that the off-loading of Battle, whether in whole or in part, would be closely analogous to the listed building consent given for the demolition of Kelsall Lodge, Leamington Spa; for, as may be seen from the twenty-fifth Report of the Ancient Monuments Board for England presented to Parliament, in pursuance of section 17 of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953, on June 11, 1978, p.10, para 7, it would be the duty of the minister's statutory advisers.

The heritage is indeed in danger. Yours faithfully,
A. J. TAYLOR,
Rose Cottage,
Lincoln Hill,
Chiddingfold,
Surrey,
January 25.

Employing the disabled

From Professor Peter Townsend.

Sir, Much of your special supplement on disability (January 5) was sensitive, but in your article on employment Patricia Tisdall entirely misrepresents opinion among voluntary organizations and for people with disabilities about what she calls the "semi-compulsory methods of the quota and register system".

First, the quota. The Manpower Services Commission is believed to be recommending to the Government the abandonment of the quota of 3 per cent disabled employees in favour of a more "persuasive" policy towards employers. If this is true, it will contradict all the advice received by the MSC from all voluntary organizations following the publication of its consultative document. I know of no organization which has recommended that the quota scheme be scrapped. On the contrary, the commission was flooded with representations that the scheme should be reinforced and given teeth.

Second, the disabled persons' register. Most of the voluntary organizations concerned with disability believe that registration has fallen because people with disabilities see that there are no advantages in so doing. But if registration were to be seen to be connected with

vigorous enforcement of the quota, together with generous government subsidies for adaptation of premises and machines, and if registration were also linked with local authority registers of the handicapped, with stronger entitlement to aids and adaptations, people with disabilities would take an entirely different attitude. They would "voluntarily" register and that the Government was prepared to do something about their integration not only in employment but within ordinary membership of community groups and services.

Patricia Tisdall made no mention of schemes in other countries to combine quota schemes with both penalties for non-fulfilment and subsidies and other government help for employers with generous policies. In recent weeks the Government has already announced the reduction in rate of employment of disabled persons. There have also been persistent rumours of the closure of many rehabilitation centres as well as of the winding up of the quota scheme. Let us at least be clear that the voluntary organizations and disabled people want no part of this disastrous strategy.

Yours sincerely,
PETER TOWNSEND, Chairman,
Disability Alliance,
1 Cambridge Terrace, NW1.

Artists' adviser

From Mr Jack Black and others.

Sir, We view with dismay the recent unexpected and unexplained decision of the Arts Council of Great Britain to withdraw grant-aid in 1981-82 from a unique and dynamic body, Artlaw Services.

Artlaw is a non-profit distributing company, limited by guarantee. It provides information, advice and education on art-related legal matters, and encouragement to artists, designers, composers and others with existing or imminent problems who may be ill-equipped to tackle them within, generally, "garret" budgets.

The using Artlaw—increasingly over its first two years and well in excess of 2,000—have been enabled to survive as artists amid the complexities of the law, from contract and copyright to landlord and tenant law. The benefit to the public, as well as to artists individually, has been patent if immeasurable.

Artlaw's work has been widely praised by regional arts associations and there has never been a word of criticism from the Arts Council itself, which has given moral and financial support since Artlaw's inception. It deserves unarguably to survive this "unkindest cut of all". But it will need generous sponsors, to replace the lost Arts Council subsidy of a modest £10,000 in 1980,

and new members for its subscription scheme. May we recommend it to all those who recognize the vital role of artists in bed no less than in good economic times.

Yours faithfully,
JACK BLACK,
HUGH CASSON,
G. LAURENCE HARBOTTLE,
JOHN HOYLAND,
JEREMY HUTCHINSON,
EDUARDO PAOLOZZI,
MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN,
6 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1.

A case to rest

From Miss Betty Gibbs

Sir, Today's correspondence (January 22) gives one the opportunity, not to defend Lord Denning, but to express one's warm admiration for him. The spirit of the law weighs far above rubies in comparison with its letter, and assessment of others, or of oneself, by reference to the law is arbitrary and often so unwise.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
BETTY GIBBS,
6 Bedford Terrace,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent,
January 22.

A bridge too few

From Brigadier Sir John Smyth, VC

Sir, With regard to my obituary on Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Hutton (January 20), I would like to correct one error of fact which would otherwise throw a considerable stigma on the staff of my 17th Indian Division, and particularly on Brigadier Hugh Jones (now dead), who actually (with my permission) blew the Sittang Bridge.

The idea that we thought that most of my troops had crossed the bridge to the western bank is pure myth. We knew perfectly well what the situation was. During the retreat of my heavily outnumbered division it was obvious that at some point we should have to cross the Sittang River, with only one bridge and one road leading up to it through thick jungle. General Hutton had wisely prepared the bridge for demolition with his Army sappers.

The only question was when we should start our withdrawal from

the Bilin River over the 40 miles to Sittang in order to get there without undue interference from the Japanese. When eventually I was permitted to withdraw, the Japanese had got there first with a whole division. We had only managed to get a third of the division over the bridge when Brigadier Hugh Jones told me that he was under severe pressure from the Japanese and could only hold the bridge for another hour. He therefore had to blow it immediately or allow the Japanese to march straight on to Rangoon.

There was only one answer to that problem, and that was to blow the bridge at once, which was done by the Indian sappers under heavy fire. The Japanese immediately drew off and I was able to get some 3,000 men over the Sittang by raft or by swimming.

Yours etc,
JACKIE SMYTH,
807 Nelson House,
Dolphin Square, SW1.

The pound in your pocket

From Mr D. F. T. Bowie

Sir, The Government plans to abolish the £1 note and replace it with a coin.

The possible effect on charities may be serious. They often receive one or two pound notes through the post in response to an appeal. This society received nearly £2,000 in this way over the Christmas period alone. The donors are not rich, and it is unlikely that they will send us a £5 note in the future when the £1 coin becomes common currency.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD BOWIE,
Church of England Children's Society,
Old Town Hall,
Kennington Road, SE11,
January 29.

From Mr D. J. Foster

Sir, Now that inflation has so debased the coinage of the realm that one is required to strike a £1 piece, might it be suggested that the opportunity not be lost of returning the figure of Britannia to her rightful place?

She has served in the past, and should serve again in the future, to remind those who carry her in purses and pockets, pass her across counters and drop her into machines, that Britain is still great. The portrait of a standing Britannia designed by de Saules for use on the coinage in 1901 has always been considered the most handsome version, although those who would be admirably suitable for our most important new coin.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FOSTER,
19 Compayne Gardens, NW6,
January 27.

From Mr J. B. Harris

Sir, Let us have St George, in the style of Adrian Jones's cavalry memorial, to symbolize the hoped-for defeat of the dragon inflation by the time the new £1 coin is issued.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. HARRIS,
31 Princedale Road,
Holland Park, W11,
January 29.

Basis of abortion law

From Miss Elspeth Rhys-Williams

Sir, Dame Josephine Barnes, in her article on January 21 referred to the fact that my mother, the late Dame Juliet Rhys-Williams, was a member of the Birkett Interdepartmental Committee on Abortion which reported in 1938. Dame Josephine went on to say that this report "laid the foundation for the 1967 Abortion Act". In this she is under a misapprehension.

The report recommended that the law should make it "unmistakably clear" that a doctor could procure the abortion of a pregnant woman if "the continuance of the pregnancy is likely to endanger her life or seriously to impair her health". It continued: "The induction of abortion is on ethical, social and medical grounds essentially an undesirable operation, justifiable only in exceptional circumstances. The committee is strongly opposed to any broad relaxation of the law designed to make social, economic and personal reasons a justification for the operation."

The committee's opinion was that a sound approach to the problem of criminal abortion should be based on 1930s was a genuine cause for concern) was to attempt by social and economic measures to relieve the financial difficulties associated with childbirth and parenthood."

These recommendations are poles apart from the 1967 Abortion Act, as it is currently interpreted. Dame Josephine Barnes has gone on record as saying that although 100,000 abortions a year are too many, "attempting to restrict the number is a mistake" (BMA News Review, November, 1978). In the same speech she expressed the opinion that "population control depends on expectations but is essential for the survival of our present standard of living".

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH RHYNS-WILLIAMS,
47 Aylestone Street, SW1,
January 23.

Borrowed plumes

From the Reverend F. P. Coleman

Sir, It seems that Mr Philip Howard (whose name in your pages) has not moved with *The Times*. Commenting on the possible end of the Astor connexion (report, January 24) he refers to your staff as "the present generation of Black Friars", overlooking the fact that a year or two ago they fled their Priory, thereby severing a much older connexion and, into the bargain, robbing this parish of Printing House Square, somewhat after the manner of Rachel who stole her father's gods. Or do they sink back for inspiration to the Wardrobe and the Cockpit?

Yours faithfully,
F. P. COLEMAN, Rector,
St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe,
St Andrew's House,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4,
January 25.

Haig-riden

From Mr Hugh Sykes

Sir, Following your report on January 23 about alterations to the English language by the United States' new Secretary of State, may I convey Haigographers in note a sentence he uttered at a press conference on the same day? I quote: "I would hope that in the meantime that the Soviets would do nothing to exacerbate the kind of mutual restraint that both sides should pursue."

I hope the Soviets context the unalike intention of that OK. Yours faithfully,
HUGH SYKES,
21 Seymour Street, W1,
January 29.

Football

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

his native Guernsey

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
Squash professionals mostly

This, he explains, is often necessary to squash—so he practised that way and obviously overdid it. His squash is a rare, crumbly of

February 7, an official of the International Auto Sports Federation (FISA) reaffirmed today. "We have told the South African organizers repeatedly since certain tyres for the cars, which clearly cannot be solved by next week. In these conditions, a race next week could not be a championship event."

Caught

By Norman Fox
Returning to the comparative

must change tactics

By Sydney Friskin

When Lancashire and Cheshire played their traditional hockey

McNamara (Sussex), A. Baker (Sussex), R.
 Wood (Berkshire, captain), S. Fryer
 (Sussex), S. Lister (Sussex), J. Waller
 (Hampshire), L. Hobley (Buck-
 inghamshire), L. Randolph (Berkshire),
 Harding (Berkshire).

Heading for victory: Christie (left) wins the 200 metres from Sattler. Little (GM) was third.

From Paul Harrison
Dormund Jan 30

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

DATE _____ **TIME** _____

By Peter West

Six leading players have informed the Irish Rugby Union that neither the desire nor the intention to return.

McNaughton moves to the

...the ...

Depth (cm)		Piste	Conditions		Weather (5 pm)
L	U		Off piste	Runs to resort	

	Depth (cm)	State Piste	Weather — °C	
NORWAY				snow, Vertical runs: 600m; Access roads clear. Snow level: 2,000m.
Finland	300	Poor		Snow: Main runs: None complete, snow on slopes. Vertical runs: 1,000m.
France	100	Hard		Nursery areas. Vertical runs: 1,000m.
Germany	100	Hard		Vertical runs: 1,000m.
Italy	100	Hard		Vertical runs: 1,000m.
Japan	100	Hard		Vertical runs: 1,000m.
Switzerland	80	Good		Vertical runs: 1,000m.
Netherlands	100	Hard		Vertical runs: 1,000m.
Sweden	100	Hard		Vertical runs: 1,000m.
USA	50	Hard		Vertical runs: 1,000m.
SCOTLAND:				
Calderdale:				Vertical runs: 1,000m.
One of the				Vertical runs: 1,000m.

Tennis Yesterday's results

CHICAGO: Women's tournament:
 The round: 1. Canada 6-0, 2. South beat N.
 Korea 6-0, 3. Czech 6-0, 4. Czech 6-0, 5.
 (Czechoslovakia) beat B. Buznes (W.G.)
 6-0, 6. Czech 6-0, 7. Czech 6-0, 8.
 Wade (G.S.) 6-0, 9. Turnbull
 6-0, 10. Australia beat S. Allen
 6-0, 11. Czech 6-0, 12. Czech 6-0,
 B. Potter beat R. Ruzic (Romania)
 6-0.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Senior
 Antonio Spura 122, New Jersey 100;
 106; Donny Nugent 81, 151, Milwaukee
 100; 100; 100; 100; 100; 100; 100;
 Houston 11, Rocky 97, Los Angeles
 100; 100; 100; 100; 100; 100; 100;
 New York Knicks 114, Atlanta Hawks
 100; 100; 100; 100; 100; 100; 100;
 Suns 111, Golden State Warriors 117,
 Detroit Pistons 122, Chicago Bulls
 106, Spurs 100, Celtics 85.

KORAC CUP: Quarter-final round

Scottish second division **WOMEN:** Territorial match: Midland v East (at St Andrews Hospital)

Queen's Park v Albion first 8.0.
 Stranraer v Brechin (2.0) first 8.0.
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: AP
 Aberdeen v Westward first 8.0.
 Melrose United; Barrow v Torf
 United; Bath City v Greenisland and
 Perthshire; Dumfries; Berwick
 Frieside Athletic.
SECOND LEAGUE: Dalwhinnie Hamlet v
 Crayke Palace XI.
Rugby Union
 first 8.0.
 NATIONAL CUP: Women: Final
 first 8.0; Southgate v Crystal Palace
 first 8.0.
Tomorrow
Rugby League
 first Division: Bradford v Northampton
 first 8.0.
 second Division: Huddersfield v Wakefield
 first 8.0.
 third Division: Hull v Halifax
 first 8.0.

CLUB MATCHES: Ashraff v Cross Keys; Bridgend v Waons; Bristol v Blackbeath; Broughton Park v Oiler (2.45); Camborne v Exeter; Cambridge University v Groystone (2.30); Coventry v Whitnaghven; Dewsbury Bramley (3.30); Doncaster v Rochdale (3.30); Rutherford v Keighley (3.30); Hunslet v Fulham; Hutton v Swinton; York v Batley.

Liverpool (2.30) North Manchester
 New Brighton v London Irish (2.30)
 12.45: Newcastle v Manchester City
 1.30: Birmingham v Nottingham
 1.45: Derby (2.15) Nottingham v Oxford
 1.45: Southampton v Reading
 1.45: Swansea (2.30) Plymouth v
 1.45: Rotherham Park v Bedford
 2.30: Scunthorpe v Grimsby
 2.45: Stirling Albion v Glasgow High
 12.15: Swansea v Aberystwyth
 1.30: Cardiff City v Q. O.

Sp: Norfolk v Essex; 1st Norwich
 2nd Norwich

COUNTY MATCH: Leistonshire
 v Weymouthshire (at Leiston)
 1.30: The Army v Travellers (at Aldershot)
 1.30: London League v Hounslow v Mid
 Surrey

OTHER MATCHES: Cambridge
 v Exeter (at Exeter) Crawley v Sussex
 v Remnants.

WOMEN: Oxfordshire v Staffordshire
 1.30: W. A. Q.

Hockey
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: RAF v
 Southgate (at RAF Uxbridge).
LONDON LEAGUE: Blackheath v

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets	
FT Ind 4663 up 3.2	
FT Gilt 69.21 up 0.12	
Sterling	
\$ 2.3670 down 305 points	
Index 81.1 down 0.3	
Dollar	
Index 89.5 up 0.7	
DM 2.285 up 330 points	
Gold	
\$506.50 up \$16	
Money	
3 month sterling 14 1/4	
3 month Euro 17 1/4	
6 month Euro 5 1/2	

IN BRIEF

Opec set to
raise
Third World
funding

Vicuna, Jan 30.—Oil exporting countries have no reason to feel guilty about causing problems in poorer developing nations, their finance ministers were told today.

Others would like to make us feel guilty, Mr. Mohamed Yala, Algeria's finance minister, said in opening remarks at a ministerial council meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

"It is wrong to say we are responsible" for the world's problems, especially in the Third World, he said.

Opec finance ministers, meeting for the first time in more than four months, were expected to approve an increase in the organization's aid to developing countries.

Conference participants said the ministers discussed a substantial increase in the 1981-1982 funding programme of Opec's \$4,000m Fund for International Development.—AP—Dow Jones.

BPC shares lower as
speculation grows

Shares in BPC, the beleaguered printing and publishing group, fell another 1p to 15p yesterday to stand 10p below par value, as speculation about the company's future continued to mount.

Mr. A. M. "Monty" Alfred, a BPC director, said he was aware of speculation but added: "There is nothing I can say." As yet, the group has made no notification to the Stock Exchange about developments.

ICI jobs threat

ICI, which is said to be planning as many as 10,000 redundancies this year, has been accused by the General and Municipal Workers' Union of "misuse" of agreements and of wanting to implement redundancies without trade union negotiations.

£76m spending plan

Asip, the exploration and development arm of the Italian state-owned oil and chemicals conglomerate ENI, is planning to spend £76m in Britain over the next four to five years. It already has interests in several marginal North Sea fields and a 17.9 per cent interest in the T-Block.

Enterprise zone

Corby has become the third location in England to be invited by the Government to submit formal plans for the establishment of an enterprise zone. The other two are Dudley and the Salford and Trafford districts of Manchester.

Brewery dismissals

Dismissal notices for 1,000 strikers have been sent out by Ansell, the West Midlands brewers that are part of Allied Breweries, where a row over production cutbacks has led to a strike by production and distribution workers.

SDR rates

The S-SDR exchange rate stood at 1.24418 while the E-SDR rate was 0.521450.

Chancellor hints
at higher indirect
taxation to help
new businesses

By Melvyn Westlake

Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday gave the strongest hint yet that he intends to raise taxes on alcohol and cigarettes in his third Budget, on March 10.

Speaking at a press conference in Scotland he indicated that he had little choice but to increase taxation borne by individuals in order to raise the money to help new businesses and small companies.

An increase in VAT appeared to be ruled out by the Chancellor. VAT rose as prices rose, he said, but other taxes, such as the "hardy annuals, tobacco and alcohol, have to be adjusted in the light of inflation. There is nothing unusual about that."

There has been much speculation that this is the kind of strategy that he would feel obliged to adopt. The private manufacturing sector of the economy has been hit harder than any other by the recession, while living standards have held up surprisingly well for many people still in work.

As a consequence, it has looked increasingly likely that the Chancellor would want to spread the burden of recession more widely by shifting taxation from business to individuals.

Sir Geoffrey said: "I cannot separate money from the day but I feel particularly in any room for help and relief at all it must be directed at business, at new business and small businesses and particularly to encourage new business because that is where the jobs will come."

The Chancellor, however, has

little room for manoeuvre. Government spending is already certain to be higher in the next financial year than planned. If public sector borrowing is to be kept down to acceptable levels, taxes will have to rise, even though they have already gone up quite sharply overall since the Government took office.

This was admitted recently by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. At the same time, there is a strong resistance among some ministers to any increase in the standard rate of income tax.

This means that the Chancellor will either have to cut the real value of tax allowances, by not raising them in line with inflation, or increase excise duties, or both. The projection of a £10,000m Government borrowing requirement in 1981-82 already assumes that excise duties will rise in line with the general increase in prices.

Effectively confirming such a prospect, Mr Lawson said yesterday that "the surprise would be a Budget in which a Chancellor did not have to do anything about indirect taxes." He said: "People have got to understand the general case about indirect taxes increases which feature in almost every Budget."

In a separate speech yesterday evening, the Chancellor appeared to rebuff pleas from the oil industry to reconsider the new tax he is imposing on oil production. He said companies must be allowed a fair return, but after oil price increases over the last two years, the new oil tax would not be unfair.

Wall Street
expects
further fall in
loan ratesFrom Frank Vogel
United States Economics
Correspondent
Washington, Jan. 30

Citibank cut its prime lending rate to 19 1/2 per cent from 20 per cent today as commercial bank loan demand weakened and as new evidence surfaced to show that United States economic activity is declining.

Share prices, which rallied on news of the prime rate cut, suffered a late reversal with anxieties over Poland and the Iran-Iraq war. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.62 lower at 947.27.

The government's index of leading indicators, often seen as the best statistical guide to the economy's future performance, fell by 0.8 per cent last month. The Commerce Department reported. The index has moved ahead in each of the previous six months as the economy strengthened from last spring's recession.

Seven of the 10 components of the composite index declined in December and the index now stands at 135.6 (1967 equals 100).

Government economists admitted that there might be a bare real economic growth in the next few months. The Reagan Administration is particularly disturbed by a Labour Department report showing a large 1.9 per cent fall in American business in the final quarter of last year.

As a result, productivity in private companies fell by 0.3 per cent for all of last year, after declining by 0.4 per cent in 1979 and by 0.2 per cent in 1978.

Interest rates are now falling sharply. Only a week ago the rate for Federal funds was holding at 18 1/2 per cent, yet today it was in the 17 to 17 1/2 per cent range.

Welsh site likely for Datsun plant

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Jan 30

Nissan, maker of Datsun cars, appears to have settled on Wales as the location for its proposed new factory in Britain.

Feasibility studies are to be completed in the next four months and will examine the history of industrial relations at three potential sites in Wales.

But Nissan will scrap its plans to build the £200m car plant if these studies indicate that Japanese managers might be confronted with industrial unrest, Mr Takashi Ishihara, the company's president, said today.

The decision of Japan's second largest car manufacturer to establish a plant in the United Kingdom will also depend on whether initial studies show that British companies can deliver components of the right quality on time, and whether the trade unions will accept automated equipment and robots which are already utilised in Japan's highly efficient car plants.

"In fact we would not have chosen Britain if it had not been for an enthusiastic invitation which we received from the British Government," Mr Ishihara said.

The plant is expected to employ up to 5,000 workers directly and to provide jobs for up to 25,000 indirectly.

Industrial relations is an important factor and much will depend on whether we can get the cooperation of the British trade unions," another Nissan official said.

If the plan goes ahead, construction will begin in 1982, with production starting up in 1984. The company hopes to turn out 200,000 units a year by 1986.

It is understood that two front wheel drive models with engines of 1,500 cc will be produced.

Nissan has also announced that the plant will initially obtain 60 per cent of its parts from British and European manufacturers. The ratio will later be raised to 80 per cent. "We hope British and European suppliers will provide some parts," Mr Ishihara said.

The company hopes to use Japanese techniques in management to promote industrial harmony. "This issue is important because Nissan has not been troubled by a strike in Japan for 27 years," an official in Japan's Ministry for International Trade and Industry, said.

Earlier, Mr Ishihara said he hoped the proposed plant would not harm British Leyland sales, but Datsuns produced in Britain will compete with other Japanese and European imports.

Japanese newspapers reported today that the Ministry of International Trade and Industry hoped that Nissan's plans to build a plant in the United Kingdom would ease trade frictions between the two countries by providing employment opportunities in Wales.

"But there is a danger that Nissan cars might now flood Europe and provoke new antagonisms against Japan on the Continent," *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, the financial journal, said.

3,500 BL cars held by Belgian workforce

From Peter Norman
Seneffe, Belgium, Jan 30

Over two thousand workers at BL's doomed car assembly plant here continued to occupy the factory and voted to block the departure of completed vehicles and parts from the works and from BL's adjoining European distribution centre.

Their aim is to impose the 3,500 new cars in the centre as a bargaining counter to obtain As Cunion leaders continued plans for demonstrations and consultations with Belgian regional and national governments and the EEC Commission.

Angry union leaders accused BL of "foul play" over its decision to close the plant

which assembles mainly Minis. There was no mistaking the bitterness felt towards the Leyland management, Mrs Thatcher's Government and all things British among the 2,000 men and women who attended a union meeting in the assembly plant.

After the closure, as much as 30 per cent of the labour force in the area around Seneffe will be out of work. As Cunion leaders continued plans for demonstrations and consultations with Belgian regional and national governments and the EEC Commission.

The meeting heard union leaders accuse BL of "cheating, rapacity and foul play". "We'll make the British pay through the nose," one union spokesman told the crowd, "for 17 years of good and loyal service which Leyland couldn't have dreamed of at any of its British plants."

"They will have to reimburse the Belgian Fr150m (£1.9m) in the form of a loan to the Belgian community." This was a reference to subsidies from the Walloon regional authority to help finance BL's Seneffe plant.

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Fraser chief
in talks
with Lonrho
shareholderBy Our Financial Staff
London, Jan 30

Professor Ronald Smith, the new chairman of the House of Fraser, confirmed last night that he has had talks with Mr Thomas Ferguson of Gulf Fisheries, a leading Lonrho shareholder which has twice opposed Mr Ronald Smith's takeover.

Professor Smith said: "Yes, we have had talks but I am not in a position to comment on what was discussed."

Mr Ferguson and Prof Smith have had an informal relationship since he was appointed House of Fraser deputy chairman last August. There was an attempt to appoint Mr Ferguson to a permanent position, but this came to nothing.

Gulf Fisheries, headed by Shaikh Nasser and members of the ruling family of Kuwait, hold 15.7 per cent of Lonrho. It first clashed with the board in 1979 when it attempted to put two of its men on the board. Last year the Kuwaitis unsuccessfully opposed an increase in the number of Lonrho's shares in issue.

Lonrho shareholders will need to approve the group's decision to accept a bid for the House of Fraser.

It is understood that Gulf Fisheries would not oppose the move, providing it does not infringe Lonrho's liquidity.

A decision on how Gulf Fisheries will vote on the deal will be made after Lonrho issues the formal offer document to Fraser shareholders.

Meanwhile, Prof Smith moves into Sir Hugh's office in Glasgow on Monday. A board meeting could be called for Tuesday because Lonrho is challenging whether a dramatic board meeting last Wednesday during which Sir Hugh was deposed as chairman and Lonrho said it was making a takeover bid was unconstitutional.

Prof Smith said: "We have taken legal advice at the highest level and are sure that the move was constitutional. The board meeting will discuss the position as Lonrho does not accept this."

Institutional shareholders already have indicated they would not support Lonrho's 150p a share bid for the stores group.

Dealers scent EMS realignment

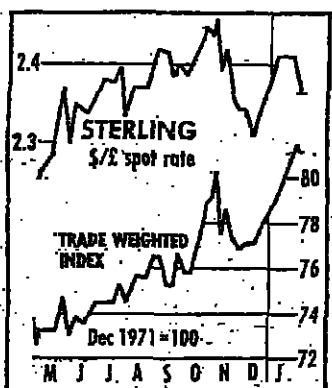
By Frances Williams

The dollar soared and the pound slid on nervous and volatile foreign exchange markets yesterday, as growing speculation that there would be a realignment of the currencies within the European Monetary System (EMS) this weekend. New tensions in Poland helped gold which recovered \$16 to \$506.50 an ounce.

Sterling moved erratically against the dollar for much of the day but fell precipitously in late trading to close over 3 cents down at \$2.3670, its lowest closing level for a month. Speculation on an early cut in minimum lending rate contributed to sterling's weakness, but the principal factor was persistent heavy demand for the dollar.

The pound was mixed against Continental currencies and its effective exchange rate fell 0.3 on the day to 81.1.

The dollar went from strength to strength, gaining on all leading currencies. It rose by



3.30 pfennigs against the Deutsche mark to close at DM 2.285, a 21 year high, and also set a new record against the lira.

The surge in the dollar further exacerbated the strains in the EMS, with both the Deutsche mark and the Belgian franc trading at their permitted floors. The German and French authorities were obliged to intervene heavily to prop up the Deutsche mark.

John Brown forecasts
50 pc fall in profits

By Philip Robinson

Another of Britain's leading engineering companies counted the cost of recession yesterday. John Brown, makers of gas turbines, machine tools, plastics machinery and other equipment for industry, forecast that profits would fall by almost half this year.

Two years ago profits were a record £28.2m, last year they fell to £21m, and for the 12 months to March 1981, Mr John Mayhew-Sanders, the group's chairman and chief executive, says the figure could be as low as £12m, on sales of £700m.

Most of the profits will come from the United States-plastics machinery group. Lessons bought a year ago for £35m.

New holiday association to bring in code of conduct
Polishing up the timeshare image

Britain apparently abounds with people who are ready to part with large sums of money in return for the privilege of owning, for a few brief weeks of each year, part of a Scottish castle or an impressive cruiser in the Aegean.

Those who have fallen foul of some of the more disreputable operators in the timeshare business will no doubt be glad to learn that what is claimed to be the fastest growing sector of the leisure market is at last to have its own self-regulatory code of conduct.

The Department of Trade has given its assent to the creation of the British Property Timeshare Association, and the body's first chairman is to be Viscount Garnock, board member of the British Tourist Authority and vice-chairman of the North American advisory group of the British Overseas Trade Board.

One of the practices the association will forbid among its members is that of raising construction capital through

selling accommodation on holiday estates which have yet to be built.

According to Mr Brian Wates, managing director of the European end of Resort Condominiums International, a United States company involved in timesharing: "The industry is acutely aware that, as it is a new concept, there is a lot of suspicion among the public. What we need to do is explain that concept."

Timesharing is, in fact, a blessing to anyone owning a huge and unmanageable country estate and looking for ready ways to turn it into capital. The property is converted into individual flats which are allocated for one or two weeks a year to whoever pays the appropriate fee.

A further aim of the association is to bring in a code of conduct for the next decade in one of the prestigious timeshare estates being developed in Scotland could cost up to £15,000. It comes as no surprise, perhaps, that most of the takers are middle to upper class families who are

following the general trend away from hotels to self catering holidays.

If the family becomes bored with spending holidays in the same location, it contacts an organization such as RCI which offers an exchange service with other timesharees elsewhere in return for a management fee.

One of the key issues likely to result from the formation of the association is that timeshare will no longer be marketed as an investment. The English Tourist Board is convinced of the potential, and is backing the association. Mr Frank Howe, head of commercial relations, said: "We regard timesharing as offering a viable means to increase the stock of high quality self-catering holiday accommodation for which there is a growing demand. It also offers an attractive alternative use for our redundant country houses and resort hotels."

David Hewson

A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT TRUSTS-3

Worldwide
opportunities

Investment Trusts are able to invest on a worldwide basis, and also in almost any attractive asset form. Thus listed or unlisted shares, property, Government Securities, finance for small companies and exciting new projects such as North Sea oil and gas exploration all come within the scope of the Investment Trust.

Overseas investment

The Investment Trust industry, since its inception over 100 years ago, has always had a recognised expertise in overseas markets and foreign currencies. At various times legal constraints have rendered overseas investment less attractive than it otherwise could have been.

Exchange controls, for example, were a serious handicap for many years, but their abolition in the autumn of 1979 restored the incentives for investment overseas. The Investment Trust industry's acknowledged expertise is now actively being put to good purpose for the benefit of shareholders.

Overseas investment has been the subject of much political comment in recent years, some of it ill-informed. However, the investment manager sees it simply as part of his responsibility to shareholders for whom he has to obtain the best possible return on the funds entrusted to him.

Main arguments. Briefly, the main investment arguments for seeking opportunities overseas are as follows:-

1. To benefit from other markets' better performances.
2. To share in economic growth rates higher than Britain's.
3. To participate in strengthening currencies.
4. To diversify and reduce the risk of investing only in the U.K.
5. To take advantage of unique opportunities offered by other markets.

For example, Australia has an abundance of shares which provide an investment in raw materials; South Africa has gold mining shares; North America can offer dominance in high technology; and the Far East can offer a way into countries which have economic growth rates far greater than any in Europe or the U.S.A.

Unlisted investments

While the greater part of the Investment Trust industry is concerned with putting money to work in a broad spread of major companies in leading economies, many Investment Trusts have sought, with a high degree of success, to invest in less conventional ways.

Either collectively or alone, such companies have provided the backing for a number of new and exciting enterprises. For example, Investment Trusts were among the first to provide finance for the North Sea. Other projects have included high technology products and the backing for Britain's first new motorcycle for over a decade. Investment Trusts are also among those providing financial support for the new independent television companies which were recently awarded franchises.

Many more examples could be provided. However, the main point is that not only are Investment Trusts providing valuable finance for existing projects, and are therefore helping form the country's new generation of major industrial companies, they are also giving the private investor the opportunity to participate in areas otherwise inaccessible to him.

At the same time, the investor is safe in the knowledge that such investments have been carefully assessed at the outset by experienced professional managers. This, together with the spread of investment through an Investment Trust, considerably reduces the risks to investors.

Next Saturday: Vital statistics

Reprints of the complete eight-part series which makes up 'A Guide to Investment Trusts' are available on request from The Secretary, The Association of Investment Trust Companies, Park House, Sixth Floor, 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JJ. Or telephone 01-588 5347.



THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Fixed interest

The message for gilt investors

I have to confess that last year was something of a disappointment as far as the gilt-edged market went or, more simply, failed to go.

Certainly the investor who was bold enough to increase the weighting of his portfolio in equity shares did very much better. In spite of the immense pressure on company profitability and liquidity, and in spite of the large number of cut dividends, the Financial Times All Share Index still managed a rise of 25 per cent over the 12 months.

By contrast, the FT Government Securities Index, although more than 10 per cent up in mid-summer, finished the year a mere 5 per cent higher than where it started.

That hardly ranks as a disaster, however. Indeed, taking account of the 13-14 per cent interest returns available on higher coupon stocks for long periods during the year, the overall return of some 18 per cent was not bad compared with straight cash-type investment.

Admittedly, investors who bought near the top of the market last year will have done less well in straight income terms in 1980 than had they left their money on deposit. But already that loss of income is starting to look rather less serious as short-term interest rates have started to fall.

Bank deposit rates are already down from 15 to 11 per cent, though there are rather more attractive terms for larger or regular savers, while the basic building society share rate is now down to the equivalent of 13.2 per cent (9.25 per cent net).

The only notable exception in this field is the National Savings Bank Investment Account. Here a government, desperate to lay its hands on our savings, has not only held the rate offered at 15 per cent (payable gross), but also recently raised the limit on holdings from £50,000 to £200,000. More of that soon.

Returning to the gilt-edged market why did it not per-

form as well as one might have hoped last year? Very simply, because the Government failed to get fully on top of public sector expenditure, because the pressure on corporate cash flow led to strong credit demand from the private sector.

In other words, for most of the year the Government was fighting a losing battle in trying to hit monetary expansion and had no choice, at least in monetarist logic, but to keep interest rates high.

What now? Well, if you have put money into gilts over the last year, stay with it and be patient. If you hold no gilts, then seriously consider buying some, either directly or through one of the increasing number of unit trusts specializing in the gilt-edged and fixed interest markets.

The fact that you can still pick up stocks on yields of 13-14 per cent does, of course, carry a message. The first part of that message is that the Government is continuing to play its hand cautiously by holding short-term interest rates at present levels.

The second part of that message is that the big institutional investors, too, are continuing to take a fairly cautious view of prospects. They have had their hopes dashed too often over the past couple of years to be in any mood to take too much on trust these days.

For many City followers of the gilt-edged market, the promised land for the final quarter of 1981 would include an annual inflation rate of 8-10 per cent, a minimum lending rate of 9 or 10 per cent and long-term yields of about 11 per cent.

The inevitable fear is that it may not prove so simple. Will the Government really hold the line on public sector pay, and hence the public sector borrowing requirement? Will the expected bottoming-out of the recession mean a brief inflationary pressure, threatening to push

the inflation rate back into double figures by early 1982?

At this stage we simply do not know. The good sign at the moment is that even with the inflation rate falling nicely, the Government is unlikely to be tempted to prime the pumps in its March Budget in an attempt to accelerate the movement out of recession.

In short, we look set for a fairly tight Budget. The one lesson the Government must learn by now is that tax budgets are self-defeating: they destroy financial confidence.

On that view I would rather get into the gilt-edged market before the Budget—and keep my fingers crossed that the Chancellor will deliver a responsible Budget, equally important to the credit market, and, either at the time or soon after, a further cut in MLR.

It is, of course, important to remember that the marketable fixed interest stocks can fall as well as rise, and that those who prefer a safe haven should still have some attractive alternatives open to them.

As I have already said, the Government is making a great play in trying to squeeze money out of the personal sector where most of the excess liquidity of last year's explosive money supply growth is now held. For that reason it will continue to make National Savings as tempting as it can.

If MLR is cut again soon, then the 15 per cent offered on the NSB Investment Account will probably be lowered too. But the rate is still likely to remain attractive relative to rates offered by banks or building societies. (Withdrawal is on one month's notice.)

Similarly, the present nineteenth issue of National Savings Certificates is a good lock-away, especially for the higher rate taxpayer. These certificates offer 10.33 per cent over four years net of all tax. The ceiling on holdings was up this month from £4,500 to £5,000.

John Whitmore

Round-up

New fixed interest unit trust

This week saw the launch of a fixed interest unit trust from Henderson Unit Trust Management, designed to provide a high level of income.

The trust will invest in a wide selection of fixed interest securities, including debentures, corporation stocks and Government securities.

At first, the portfolio will be 95 per cent invested in debenture stocks, with the balance in equities.

The yield on the trust is 14 per cent gross (dividends will be paid quarterly), which compares favourably with the present yield of 11.68 on the group's gilt trust.

Minimum investment in the trust is 1,000 units (at 50p each for the next three weeks). Charges on the trust include an

initial 5 per cent and 0.75 per cent a year.

Abbey National Building Society is bringing out a new issue of its highly successful Sixty-Plus bondshares today to replace the first issue launched last October.

The new issue is not quite so attractive, but offers a guaranteed differential of 2.5 percentage points over the ordinary share rate—at present 9.25 per cent after basic rate tax (equivalent to 13.2 per cent gross)—for six years compared with the 3 point differential on the old issue. If you take your money out during the term, the interest will be reduced to the ordinary share rate.

The shares are available to anyone aged 60 or over with a minimum of £500 to invest. The new issue is £5,000 compared with £3,000 on the first issue.

Save and Prosper has launched an index-linked Conversion Plan, a five-year term assurance contract which gives the policyholder the option of renewing the policy at the end of each five-year period until he reaches 60.

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



OUR JOINT-BANK ACCOUNT STATEMENT...



BY HOSS

Bonds

Switching gives plenty of choice

Single premium bonds offer an efficient tool for portfolio management. Not only do insurance companies offer a wide range of funds to which your money can be linked, but they also let you switch from one fund to another cheaply and for tax purposes—efficiently.

Sadly, though, few investors make use of these switching opportunities, mainly because of lack of advice about what to do when.

The investment choices normally available for money invested in a single premium bond—the minimum is usually £500 or £1,000—include funds invested directly in property or equities or holding fixed interest securities. Some unlinked offices also offer an international equity fund, mainly invested in American or Japanese, and for those who want a safe harbour for funds during stormy investment conditions life offices run cash funds, where the capital value of your investment is guaranteed not to go down.

Alternatively, you can invest in a managed fund, where your money is split between the property and equity funds

(sometimes, with a small holding in the international fund as well as the United Kingdom equity fund) and the fixed interest and cash funds.

But you do not have to stick to your original choice of fund, because insurance companies allow you to switch from one to another. You can therefore "take a view" on investment markets, leaving the everyday rumbling of the portfolio and individual stock selection to the life office investment managers.

Remember, however, that while some offices allow you to hedge your bets and switch part of your portfolio, others take "an all or nothing" approach. So, to avoid this problem, take out a series of bonds rather than one large one.

The advantages of switching within a bond fund are two-fold. First, it is reasonably cheap. Insurance companies usually charge only between 0.25 per cent and 1 per cent of the money switched. Secondly, your tax position remains unaffected, as capital gains tax does not rear its head.

Life offices report, however, that only a small number of

bondholders actually make use of these switching facilities, though they like to know that they can switch if they want to. Insurance companies themselves shy away from giving advice on when and where to switch, on the grounds that this could lead to liquidity problems as bondholders, acting on their advice, say, from the property to the equity fund. They also argue that each bondholder's circumstances are different and what would suit one would not necessarily suit another.

This leaves those with no time or expertise to follow investment markets the choice of sticking to the life company's managed fund—with a spread on the 35.8 per cent rise, and Ingram Investment Services, with a 22.2 per cent rise, are notable for the lack of switching last year. Unlike other advisers they were not lured by the potential capital gains on gilts, but remained heavily invested in equities throughout the year.

During 1979 the advisers did better, with six out of the nine who took part beating the 7.9 per cent rise in the managed

fund, with returns varying from -4.6 per cent to a positive 26.1 per cent.

So is switching worthwhile? "Definitely," answers Michael Kelly, founder director of Sage Investment Consultants, who manages £5m for more than 100 clients (minimum investment £15,000). "We can move money faster than the investment managers of an insurance company managed fund which is hindered by its size," he explained.

Ted Ingram, of Ingram Investment Services, which takes on a minimum of £10,000 for clients and charges between 0.5 and 1 per cent for the service (and has given the best overall result over the two-year period), argues that the performance of a company's managed fund is not necessarily the right yardstick. More important is that bonds offer a useful instrument for portfolio management through which investors have a chance of matching inflation and other types of investments, such as building societies and banks.

Sylvia Morris

Insurance

Be wary of bonus forecasts

If you are taking out a profit-sharing policy to repay a loan on a house, meet school fees or for any other purpose, you obviously want the best buy. But any three specialist insurance brokers of impeccable standing may each recommend a different life office.

That is no reflection on the brokers. It is impossible to look years into the future and estimate accurately what bonuses will be declared by individual life offices, and thus which office will give the best value for money over the term of a policy.

Unfortunately, however, that is just what some people try to do—and some offices appear to encourage it.

The usual type of profit-sharing life policy has a minimum guaranteed sum assured which will be paid out if you die the day after arranging the policy) and periodically—usually annually or every three years—"reversionary" bonuses are added, increasing the value of the policy payable at maturity or earlier death.

Only a few offices which declare terminal bonuses still refuse to include any figure in their quotation forms. The Scottish Widows, with a very fine record, is one such office—although it has had to give way and agree to its terminal bonus

number of life offices are declaring terminal bonuses. These are often regarded as a "final settle-up" with policyholders whose policies become claims.

A prospective policy holder is often given figures which show the possible value of a policy in the future, assuming that the current rate of reversionary bonus is maintained throughout, together with a figure which indicates the terminal bonus which would be payable on a similar policy maturing today.

It is easy to think that the sum total of the figures represents an estimate of the final value of the policy. Some people may even believe that it is a conservative estimate, since the trend has been for reversionary bonuses to increase.

Such thinking could prove dangerous. Many terminal bonuses are volatile. The rate of terminal bonus is often dependent largely on the capital value of the life office's investments. If their value drops, the terminal bonus may well come down as well.

Only a few offices which declare terminal bonuses still refuse to include any figure in their quotation forms. The Scottish Widows, with a very fine record, is one such office—although it has had to give way and agree to its terminal bonus

appearing in the various "league tables" and market surveys of the performance of life offices.

Today's rate of terminal bonus is no guide whatever to the amount of bonus which may be payable in the future. Nobody can tell what economic conditions will be like in the years ahead.

At one time it was never really expected that a first-class life office would cut its rate of reversionary bonus—although, of course, future rates were in no way guaranteed. Now, however, that is a possibility although not through any failure on the part of the life offices.

Today's record bonus levels have been achieved mainly as a result of exceptionally high rates of interest. If inflation comes down (as we all hope it will), interest rates can be expected to drop. This could well result, in due course, in some life offices cutting their rates of bonus. High rates of interest are needed to maintain present rates of bonus.

But, with lower levels of inflation, lower bonus rates may, of course, be worth more in purchasing power than bonus rates which are artificially large as a result of high inflation.

John Drummond

AN OFFER FROM M&G UNIT TRUSTS

Unit trusts provide constant supervision of your investment by professionals and minimise the risk of loss by investing in a wide spread of different companies. M&G has founded unit trusts in Britain's new managed unit trust funds totalling over £700,000,000.

Unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

The four M&G unit trusts described below have particular appeal in the present investment climate. Use the forms below to buy units in the Fund of your choice.

GILDED FUND A new fund with the aim of providing a high income as well as prospects of capital growth from investment in a portfolio of Gilts, Government Securities, Trusts, Stocks & Co. Distribution Dates: Income units only: 1st May, 1st June, 1st September and 1st December. First distribution date for new investors: 1st May 1981.

HIGH INCOME FUND A high and increasing income need not jeopardise prospects of capital growth. The fund aims for a yield normally between 50% and 75% higher than that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index, and income distributions to unit holders have increased each year since the fund was formed. Trustees: Clydesdale Bank Limited. Distribution dates (income units only): 1st January and 1st July. Next distribution date for new investors: 1st July 1981.

RECOVER FUND Invest for capital growth in companies which have fallen on hard times, a "speculative" policy which has proved outstandingly successful in the past. Income must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic. Trustees: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. Distribution dates (income units only): 20th January and 20th August. Next distribution date for new investors: 20th August 1981.

JAPAN AND GENERAL FUND A fund designed to invest in a wide range of Japanese securities, embracing all aspects of the economy. The sole objective is long-term capital growth. Distribution dates (income units only): 20th January and 20th December. Next distribution date for new investors: 20th June 1981.

Read this table before investing

	GILT	HIGH INCOME	RECOVER	JAPAN AND GENERAL
Launch date	DEC '80	APRIL '69	MAY '69	APRIL '71
and price equivalent	50p	50p	124p	50p
Price of income units at 28th January 1981 and estimated current gross yield	50.9p	104.2p	140.5p	179.6p
	11.52%	11.32%	6.25%	0.81%
Percentage change in Fund offer price since launch date	+1.8%	+108.4%	+1024.0%	+259.2%
Percentage change in FT Ordinary Index over same period	-3.4%**	-1.4%	+11.9%	+184.3%†

*Reinvestment units shown above income units were not available at Fund launch. M&G's FT Ordinary Index % change takes no account of reinvested income. **FT Government Securities Index. †The New York Times.

Please invest in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued) of the Fund or Funds covered below (in equal proportions unless otherwise indicated) at the price received on receipt of this application. If no Fund is selected, your money will be invested in the M&G High Income Fund. Minimum £1,000 in any one Fund.

THE M&G GROUP

Divorce

Way through the tax minefield

Not long ago couples were advised to time their weddings to take advantage of the tax rules. Nowadays they might be told to time their divorces to take advantage of the tax rules. One solicitor had a client who left home on April 4, thus losing his married man's allowance for the new tax year beginning two days later.

Divorce is a financial minefield. For the rich, the character accountant has inherited the mantle of the private detective. Sorting out the divorces is less a case of "who dunnit" than who diddled it. But the problems of divorcing couples with modest means may be equally complex. Indeed, it can be more difficult to do justice over a few pounds than over a few million.

What emerged from the recent one-day conference on the financial problems of divorce organized by the Company Communications Centre was that the tax specialist has at least as important a role in the divorce as the lawyer.

A couple is treated as two separate people for tax purposes from the time one or other leaves home. The husband, however, keeps his higher married man's allowance for that year. He can claim it for longer if he is keeping his wife by voluntary payments on which he gets no tax relief. Usually, there will be a maintenance agreement and the tax status of this frequently confuses people.

You can get normal tax relief on payments provided there is some evidence that these are part of an agreement, even if it is not yet enshrined in a court order. In the year of separation, then, a husband can claim both the married man's allowance and tax relief on these payments.

The present method of tax relief on maintenance causes much irritation between couples. The man deducts basic rate tax. If the wife is not liable for tax she claims this from her tax office. But she may need him to fill in a special form, R185, rather than for a child. This means that the full single person's allowance can be claimed by the child. A divorce with two young children, for instance, should not have to pay a penny in tax on maintenance of up to £4,895 a year if this wording is adopted. She would

have her own tax allowances of £2,145 plus a single person's allowance of £1,375 for each of the children. If the £4,895 was paid to her for herself and for the children she might be liable for more than £800 in tax.

But recipients of lavish payments have to be more circumspect about the way the money is divided. The Inland Revenue might pounce if it thinks that the income is divided up so as to avoid tax rather than reflecting the true cost of maintaining a child.

In any case maintenance paid to a child should be lodged in a separate bank account.

Tax problems can arise also over the matrimonial home. If, as often happens, the wife and children are going to stay in it there is the question of the mortgage. You can only get tax relief on the mortgage if you have an interest in the property or if, as a wife, you are living in it even if you do not own it.

Arrangements where the husband keeps his interest in the home plus his mortgage liabilities after a divorce, intending to transfer the home to the children grown up, are now out of favour. More often the house, if it is not sold immediately, will be transferred to the wife. The mortgage should also be transferred because the husband will not be able to get tax relief on his payments. It would be better to have a maintenance agreement that included the cost of servicing the loan. He would obtain tax relief on loans of more than £25,000, if the sum of his old mortgage and any new one exceeds this ceiling.

We are all so used to looking at the family home as a tax haven that it is often forgotten that after a divorce the problem of capital gains tax can rear its ugly head.

Exemptions from capital gains tax hinge on the person using the residence as his principal private one. After divorce, there is no inter-spouse exemption between the couple. There is a further exemption that runs for two years after vacating the property. This should cover most cases but not if settlement of the matrimonial home drags on longer. A protracted wrangle could mean some capital gains tax liability for the husband when the property is transferred or sold.

Michael Williams

Four into three won't go?

The terms of the offer by Fildes, Shing and So-On for Great Rockall and Hongkong Investment Trust have been announced, amid great excitement in the financial press. The bid of 255p a share put a value of £53m on Great Rockall at current market levels, the equivalent of 255p a share for the Fildes, Shing and So-On bid.

On the announcement, the price of Great Rockall rose majestically from 190p to 225p while that of Fildes, Shing and So-On remained imperturbable at 350p. Almost immediately, conflicting statements were issued from the rival camps. Lord Trine of Crickefield, swashbuckling chairman of Great Rockall, opined that the "Great Rockall" should be saved for the nation from these pampers jades of Asia. An offer from that quarter would be laughable if it wasn't tragic.

Lord Trine, insouciant chairman of Fildes, Shing and So-On for the equity of Great Rockall and Hongkong Investment Trust were tabled and considered. The chairman stated that he would urge with all his power that the offer should be rejected, particularly as the Sicklepath community had sold the exploration rights to one half of the Great Grimpen Mire to its subsidiary, Great Rockall and Hongkong Mining Co.

If the bid went through it would mean that the whole of Dartmoor would be swarming with Chinese in a flash, moreover having served in the Hongkong Heavy Hussars knew what that meant, like before you could say knife they would be growing opium poppies in the "golden triangle" between the villages of Sicklepath, Owlfoot and Great Zeal.

Kevin Luddite then informed the meeting that since by the end of the century Hongkong would be returned to mainland China, the British lease on the colony having run out, this would be a glorious opportunity to ensure



a foothold for the international communist revolution on Sicklepath soil, in centenary commemoration of the Long March of Edward the Third, from Exeter to Plymouth in 1881.

On a vote two members (Ada Blott and Kevin Luddite) were in favour of accepting the offer and two (Lt Col Rudolph Grog-Berington, Prison Officer "Wormwood" Scrubs, Bristol, San Spender, the Bar, Basti, Quick, and Agatha Sibling) were against.

Minutes of the 17th meeting of the Great Grimpen Mire Investment Club committee held on January 15, 1981.

Present: Kevin Luddite (in the chair), Ada Blott, Alistair Sibling (alternate secretary).

Apologies for absence due to influenza were received from Lt Col Rudolph Grog-Berington, Lady Baskerville, Reginald Pluckitt, Prison Officer "Wormwood" Scrubs, Bristol, San Spender, the Bar, Basti, Quick, and Agatha Sibling.

2. It was noted that the secretary, Agatha Sibling, had under rule 10 (A) nominated her nephew, Alistair Sibling, as alternate to act as secretary for the meeting and vote on her behalf.

3. The offer documents from Fildes, Shing and So-On for the equity of Great Rockall and Hongkong Investment Trust were tabled and considered. On a vote of two (Ada Blott and Kevin Luddite) to one (Alistair Sibling) it was agreed to accept the share exchange offer of three Fildes, Shing and So-On shares for every four Great Rockall shares.

4. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.

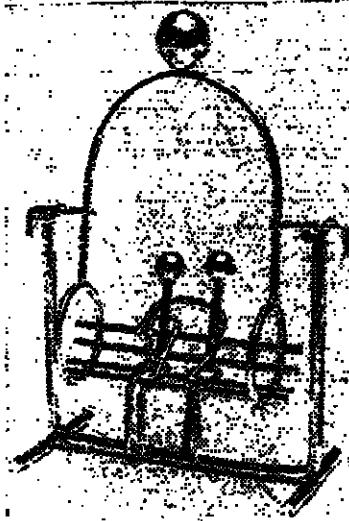
This was merely the beginning of a conflict that was to cleave the village in twain over the coming weeks. You have been warned.

Francis Kinsman

هكذا من الأصل

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

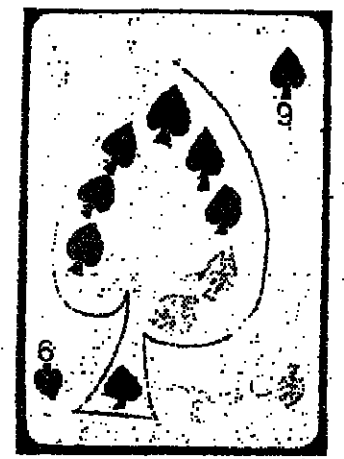
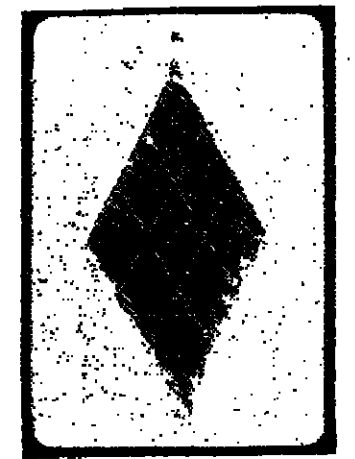


A black and white photograph of a woman standing against a dark, textured background. She is wearing a white, short-sleeved dress with a pattern of large hearts. The hearts have different internal patterns: some are solid, some have horizontal stripes, and one has a plaid design. The dress has a wide, plaid collar. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. Her right hand is on her hip, and her left arm is bent across her chest.

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